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HISTORY  
OF  
NORFOLK COUNTY  
MASSACHUSETTS

1622—1918

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LOUIS A. COOK  
SUPERVISING EDITOR

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME I

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1918

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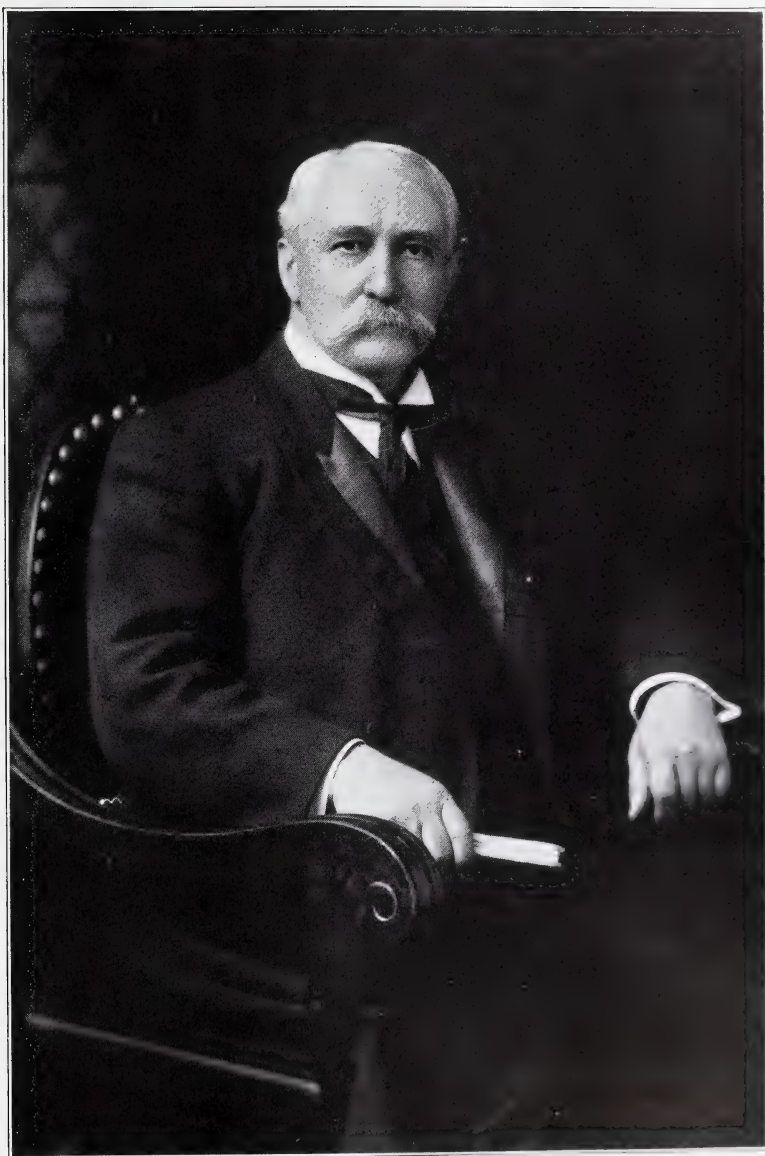
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Louis A. Cook.



# History of Norfolk County

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GROUP—THE GLACIAL EPOCH.

#### LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

Norfolk County is situated in the eastern part of the state. Two of its towns—Brookline and Cohasset—are segregated, the former being entirely surrounded by parts of Suffolk County, and the latter by parts of Plymouth County and Massachusetts Bay. With these exceptions the county is bounded, generally, on the north by the counties of Middlesex and Suffolk and the Massachusetts Bay; on the east by Massachusetts Bay and the County of Plymouth; on the south by Plymouth and Bristol counties; on the southwest by the State of Rhode Island, and on the west by the counties of Worcester and Middlesex. The county is irregular in shape, straight lines forming the boundaries between Norfolk and Plymouth, Bristol and Worcester counties and the State of Rhode Island, while the other boundaries are represented by lines that do not follow the points of the compass, among them being the curves of the Charles River and the ragged coast line of Massachusetts Bay. Its greatest extent—from Cohasset Harbor to the southwest corner of the county—is about thirty-six miles, and from the most northern point of the Town of Wellesley to the Bristol County line the distance is seventeen miles.

#### SURFACE AND SOIL

While much of the surface of Norfolk County is broken and uneven, no portion of it can be considered mountainous. The most noted elevations are the Blue Hills, in the Town of Milton; Great Hill and King Oak Hill, in Weymouth; the Brookline Hills; Wellesley Hills, in the northern part of Wellesley; Indian Rock, in Franklin; Federal Hill, in Dedham; and the ridge in the central part of Westwood, from which a commanding view of the surrounding country may be obtained. As a rule, the soil of hilly countries is not noted for its fertility, but much of the soil of Norfolk County is strong, especially the lowlands along the Charles and Neponset rivers, and is capable of producing good crops of grains and vegetables adapted to this latitude. The following description of the

land along these rivers, as the first settlers found it, is taken from Worthington's History of Dedham.

"The meadows on Neponset River were so far cleared of trees and underwood that they produced grass. The inhabitants of Dedham, in the beginning of their settlement, hired those meadows of Israel Stoughton for a pasture for their young cattle. A tradition existed at an early period that the grass, called 'fowl meadow,' which is superior to that of any other kind in the fresh water meadows, was first brought to the meadows in Dedham by a large flight of wild fowls, and that from thence the meadows and the grass received their names. . . . It is supposed that the Charles River meadows have gradually arisen from a broken, impenetrable swamp, covered with fallen trees, and the greatest part of the time covered with water, to their present state. The grass in many places has much improved in quality within the present recollection. A coat of peat, from three to four feet in depth, covers these meadows and may have been principally formed within two hundred years. The deep soil of the upland was covered with large trees, principally oak. . . . Wigwam and Purgatory swamps were dismal places. They were covered with a thick growth of cedars and hemlock. These, with much underwood, rendered these places almost impenetrable. Wigwam Swamp became the resort of wild beasts. It being near the village, the wolf howl was heard from it. To break up that den, it was made a condition of every grant of land, that the grantee should clear away the wood standing on a certain quantity of land in the swamp."

#### WATERCOURSES

The Charles River—"The Winding Charles"—is the principal stream of Norfolk County. It crosses the western boundary near the northwest corner of the Town of Bellingham, and from that point follows a general northeasterly course until it empties its waters into Massachusetts Bay at Boston. From the northeast corner of Bellingham to the Middlesex County line it separates the towns of Medway and Millis from Franklin, Norfolk and Medfield; then for some distance it marks the dividing line between Norfolk and Middlesex counties; then, turning eastward, it divides the towns of Wellesley and Needham from Dover and Dedham. Near Dedham it makes an abrupt bend toward the northwest and forms part of the county boundary.

The Indians called this stream *Quin-o-be-quin*, which in the Massachusetts tongue means "Winding Water." The manner in which it received the name of "Charles River" is thus told in "A Short History of the First Settlement of Dedham," published in 1818, the authorship of which has been attributed to Rev. William Montague, rector of the Episcopal Church: "Eleven ships left England and brought into this then howling wilderness 2,200 emigrants, many of whom were of the best families, and even some from the minor branches of the nobility, with their governor and lieutenant-governor, and landed in May, 1630, on a peninsula, opposite which was another, a river emptying into the head of the Massachusetts Bay running between them; which in honor of Charles I they called Charles River, and the peninsula on which they landed Charlestown."

Next in importance is the Neponset River, which is formed by the junction of several small streams in the southern part of the county. Like the Charles,

its general course is northeast. It forms the boundary between Canton and Milton on the east and Norwood, Westwood and Dedham on the west. In its lower reaches it marks the dividing line between Norfolk and Suffolk counties. Through East Brook and an artificial channel called "Mother Brook," part of the waters of the Charles River are drained into the Neponset. A history of Mother Brook is given in the chapter on Internal Improvements.

Weymouth Fore River is formed in the Town of Braintree by the junction of the Monatiquot and Cochato rivers. It flows in a northeasterly direction, separating the towns of Quincy and Weymouth, and empties into Massachusetts Bay.

Weymouth Back River drains some of the ponds in the Town of Weymouth. It forms part of the boundary line between the towns of Weymouth and Hingham and falls into the Massachusetts Bay a short distance east of the Weymouth Fore River. Its principal tributary is the Old Swamp River.

In the southern part of the county there are a number of small streams that flow in a southerly direction, their waters finally reaching the Narragansett Bay. The most important of these watercourses are the Salisbury, Billings and Furnace brooks and the Peters River. In the southwestern part of the Town of Randolph is the summit of the watershed between the Massachusetts and Narragansett bays, on an elevation about one hundred and thirty-five feet above high water mark at Weymouth Landing.

Tributary to the Charles River are a number of streams, Mill River, Stop River, Boggastow, Mine, Noanets and Shepard's brooks being the most important. Every part of the county is well watered and along many of the creeks and rivers are beautiful springs of clear, cold water.

#### GEOLOGY

Although America is called the New World, geologists believe that it is really older than most parts of Europe. Dana divides geologic time into four great ages—the Azoic, Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic. These are subdivided into nine periods, and these into a number of eras. The oldest known rocks are the Huronian, so-called by Sir William Logan, because first noticed by him in the vicinity of Lake Huron, though the Huronian limestone, the best example of the formation, is the least abundant of the bed rocks of New England. At the beginning of the Cambrian period, the oldest of the Paleozoic age, mountain masses of granite extended across Massachusetts from northeast to southwest. As granite is generally conceded to be one of the oldest of the igneous rocks, i. e., rocks whose constituent parts have been crystallized from a highly heated condition, Massachusetts was no doubt "dry land" at a time when many parts of the Old World were still under water. Neither the Huronian rocks nor granite contain fossils, indicating that they formed part of the earth's surface before there was any organic life on this planet.

Granite is an unstratified rock composed of quartz, feldspar and mica. In the Norfolk County granite the feldspar is of the orthoclase variety, a silicate of aluminum and potassium, commonly called "potash feldspar." Granite varies from coarse crystalline masses, in which the crystals are sometimes an inch or more in length, to a fine granular rock called "felsite." It is one of the most

abundant and widespread of the igneous rocks. In the United States it is quarried chiefly in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware and Georgia. In 1913, the last year for which reliable figures are available, the State of Massachusetts produced granite valued at \$4,096,372. There is also a variety of granite called "syenite," in which the mica is replaced by hornblende. It is so named from Syene (now Assuan) on the River Nile in Egypt, where it was first discovered.

Throughout the world, in almost every granite producing section, there are found also rocks to which geologists have given the names of amygdaloid, diorite and diabase, all of which are to be found in Norfolk County. Amygdaloid is an igneous rock containing numerous oval or spherical inclosures, different in texture from the body of the rock itself. Lava thrown out by volcanoes is one of the best examples of amygdaloid. Diorite and diabase are plutonic rocks usually composed mainly of hornblende and a species of feldspar. Amygdaloid, diorite and diabase are often included in the general term of "trap rock," heavy, compact in structure, and used in macadamizing roads or for railroad ballast. Diorite is sometimes called "greenstone."

In 1875 William O. Crosby began a study of the rocks in the vicinity of Boston, including Norfolk County, and the result of his investigations was published by the Boston Society of Natural History in 1880. The granite area he describes as consisting of about two hundred square miles in the southern part of Norfolk and the northern part of Plymouth County. The best known quarry in this field is the one at Quincy, which was opened in 1825 by Gridley Bryant, of Scituate, at the instigation of the Bunker Hill Monument Association. It afterward became known as the "Bunker Hill Quarry." Now the value of Quincy granite is well known all over the United States, and some of it has been shipped to other countries.

In the towns of Dover and Medfield Mr. Crosby found small patches of Paleozoic rocks "exhibiting local transitions toward granite and diorite." These rocks, greenish or grayish in hue, compact in texture and very hard, are a species of felsite which Mr. Crosby classified as petrosilex. Farther southeast he noted a larger area, extending into what is now the Town of Westwood, in which the rock was more perfectly crystallized. In this field is the quarry from which was taken the stone for the Norfolk County court-house, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Memorial Hall at Dedham.

Mr. Crosby also found a considerable area of this petrosilex in the central and southern parts of the Town of Needham, where the color was gray or greenish white, with numerous small crystals or grains of transparent quartz, giving the stone the appearance of porphyry. In the northern part of Needham he noticed a reddish brown, compact stone resembling quartz in its texture. Only a few outcrops of this stone were observed in Needham, but just south of the Boston & Albany Railroad, near the village of Wellesley, the deposits were larger and the character of the rocks better defined. Similar deposits were seen in the Blue Hill region in the Town of Milton.

Upon the elevation known as "Rattlesnake Hill," in the southeastern part of the Town of Sharon, and on Moose Hill in the western part of the same town, the rocks are chiefly of syenite. In the eastern part, near the Randolph Town line, there are some beds of granite of excellent quality that have been quarried

to some extent. In early days a considerable quantity of bog iron ore was mined in this town.

#### DEVONIAN ROCKS

The Devonian rocks of the Paleozoic age rest upon the Silurian formations and are among the oldest of the fossil bearing rocks. Mr. Crosby, in speaking of the rocks of this period, says they "occur only in limited basins or depressions excavated in the ancient crystalline formations." One of these basins, which he calls the "Narragansett," extends from Newport, Rhode Island, through Bristol and Plymouth counties in Massachusetts. Near the line between the two states this basin divides, a narrow branch of it running northeast into the Town of Braintree, where it terminates in a bed of Paradoxides, a stone resembling the Upper Cambrian formation, from which it can be best distinguished by the large fossils of the trilobite variety.

Some years before Mr. Crosby made his study of the rocks about Boston, W. W. Dodge, of the Boston Society of Natural History, made a geologic reconnaissance in the eastern part of Norfolk County. He noticed the Paradoxides bed above mentioned, particularly the slate deposits connected with it. Says he: "The slate along the Monatiquot River in Braintree is like that of the Paradoxides bed and similarly related to granite, and these two areas are continuous under the bed of the Weymouth Fore River. On the west side of that river, at the first bend north of Weymouth Landing, the slate is greenish gray or brown, tinged with purple. West of the railroad the slate is exposed immediately north of the granite, and is almost identical with that along the Monatiquot River and at Hayward's Creek. The slate at Mill Cove is continuous across the Weymouth Back River with that in the northern part of Hingham."

Mr. Crosby mentions what he calls an "island of slate" in the Blue Hill granite deposits in the Town of Milton, near the boundary between Milton and Quincy. The slate formation extends to the Randolph turnpike, where it ends in several ledges of a gray argillaceous rock, similar to the Paradoxides bed in Braintree, but containing more iron pyrites. Just how these slate beds became intermingled with the Devonian rocks furnishes food for theory and speculation on the part of the geologists.

The bed rocks in the Town of Weymouth are very old, ranging from the Cambrian to the Devonian periods of the Paleozoic age. The rocks underlying a large portion of the town are closely allied to the granite beds in Quincy, though less perfectly crystallized and broken here and there by wide seams of amygdaloid and the slate formations referred to above. Some of the veins of slate here are rich in iron pyrites and contain fine crystals of quartz.

#### THE SHAWMUT GROUP

According to Crosby, the principal constituents of what he calls the Shawmut Group are breccia and amygdaloid. The breccia of this group is a conglomerate composed of angular fragments of the older rocks. Mr. Crosby noticed outcrops of this group in Dedham and Milton, the breccia appearing on the west side of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and the amygdaloid

on the east side. He also observed outcrops along the road east and west of Charles River Village in the Town of Needham.

In the Town of Brookline the Shawmut amygdaloid resembles felsite, though it is not so hard and contains more or less quartz and crystals of feldspar. Some geologists have given this stone the name of "graywacke," commonly called "plum-pudding stone," on account of the numerous oval or rounded nodules of some other mineral found in it. Both the breccia and the amygdaloid of the Shawmut Group belong to the trap rock species. The Shawmut basin extends irregularly from the Blue Hill region on the south to the porphyry hills in the vicinity of Lynn and Malden on the north.

#### THE GLACIAL EPOCH

About the close of the Tertiary period of Cenozoic time came the Pleistocene or "Ice Age," when practically all of British North America, New England, the Central States as far west as the Missouri Valley and south to the vicinity of St. Louis, Missouri, were covered by a vast mass of ice called a glacier. This sheet of ice was formed by successive falls of snow, each adding its weight to the mass until the whole was compressed into a solid body. How long ago the Ice Age began, or how long the great ice sheet remained upon the surface of the country, can only be conjectured. Then came a geologic change. The temperature rose, the glacier began to melt and the huge body of ice moved slowly southward, carrying with it soil, rocks, etc., and depositing them in the form of "glacial drift" upon the bed rocks of more southern latitudes. The hard substances that gradually settled to the bottom of the glacier left scratches, called "striæ," upon the bed rocks, and from these geologists have been able to determine with tolerable accuracy the course taken by the glacier.

Many of the bed rocks of Norfolk County are striated, thus bearing evidence that they were once beneath the great glacier. This is especially true of the Town of Weymouth, where the exposed ledges show the striæ plainly, and along the Weymouth Back River the sharp linear hills, called "horsebacks" or "kames," mark the terminal moraine or ridge where the last of the ice melted. The debris carried by the glacier was deposited upon the bed rocks in the form of drift, as above stated. The constant grinding reduced many of the rocks to a fine powder, and these disintegrated rocks form the soil of a large part of the New England States. Many of the ponds and lakes are of glacial origin, the water from the melting ice settling into the depressions in the drift.

## CHAPTER II

### EARLY EXPLORATIONS

EFFECT IN EUROPE OF COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY OF AMERICA—THE CABOTS—GOSNOLD'S EXPEDITION—PRING AND BROWNE—WEYMOUTH'S EXPEDITION—LONDON AND PLYMOUTH COMPANIES—SMITH'S EXPLORATIONS—CAPT. THOMAS DERMER—FRENCH EXPLORATIONS—CONFLICT OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH INTERESTS—ENGLISH CLAIMS SUSTAINED.

October 12, 1492, marked the beginning of an epoch in the world's history, for on that day Christopher Columbus discovered the New World. Previous to that time the Atlantic Ocean had been a bugbear to sailors, but when the news of Columbus' successful voyage was carried to the courts of Europe, monarchs were seized with a desire to send expeditions to the new continent. Although to Spain was conceded the honor of leading the way, it was not long until other nations were competing with Spain for the profits of her discovery.

#### THE CABOTS

Henry VII, then King of England, was not noted for his liberal policies, but he was sagacious enough to see that some advantage might be gained for his country, and showed a willingness to encourage explorations—provided the royal treasury was not called upon to bear the expense. To that end, on March, 5, 1496, he granted to John Cabot and his three sons—Lewis, Sancius and Sebastian—a commission authorizing them "to sail to all parts, countries and seas of the East, of the West and of the North, under our banners and ensigns, with five ships of what burden or quantity soever they be, and as many mariners or men as they will have with them in the said ships, upon their own proper costs and charges, to seek out, discover and find whatsoever isles, countries, regions or provinces of the heathen and the infidels whatsoever they be which before this time have been unknown to all Christians."

The patent also gave the Cabots power to set up the royal banner of England in every "village, town, castle, isle or mainland by them newly found, and to subdue, occupy and possess the same as vassals of the English crown." For this service the Cabots were given the exclusive privilege of trading with the natives of the country or countries they might discover and claim in the name of the crown. This privilege was granted to them, their successors or assigns, without limit or condition, further than that upon their return to England they were required to land at the port of Bristol and pay one-fifth of the profit of their enterprise to the King.

About the middle of May, 1497, John Cabot and his son Sebastian set sail

from Bristol in a vessel called the "Matthew" and on June 24th they landed either upon the Island of Newfoundland or Cape Breton Island, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. They returned to England and on February 3, 1498, the King issued to them a new patent, which is said to have been "less ample than the first and worded more cautiously," though it granted the patentees six English ships and the exclusive right to trade with the people of the lands they might visit on their voyages.

John Cabot died soon after the second patent was granted, but Sebastian, with a fleet of five vessels, sailed from Bristol in May, 1498, on his second voyage. At that time the extent of the lands discovered by Columbus was not known, and it was believed that somewhere there was a passage by water to the "South Sea," as the Pacific Ocean was then called. To find this passage was one of the objects of Sebastian Cabot, and it is asserted by some writers that in his voyage of 1498 he passed into Hudson's Bay. He then examined the coast as far southward as the thirty-eighth parallel of north latitude and is credited with being the first explorer to discover the mainland of North America. Upon the voyages and discoveries of the Cabots England laid claim to a large part of North America.

Nearly a century later (1583) came Sir Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and his half brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, and some others, but their explorations have no bearing upon New England history. Colonization did not follow upon the heels of the explorer and a century after Cabots' first voyage "in all New England and the vast tract north towards the pole, not a white family was settled, not a white child had been born."

#### GOSNOLD'S EXPEDITION

Early in the spring of 1602, a company of thirty-two men, under the command of Capt. Bartholomew Gosnold, sailed from Falmouth, England, in a small vessel called the "Concord." The expedition was fitted out under the direction of the Earl of Southampton, who bore the greater share of the expense. On May 14, 1602, the expedition came in sight of land about 43° 30' north latitude, somewhere on the coast of New Hampshire or Maine. Turning southward, they followed the coast until the afternoon of the 15th, when they discovered "a mighty headland, which, from the great number of cod fish caught in the vicinity, was named Cape Cod." Here they landed and were no doubt the first white men to set foot upon the soil of Massachusetts. The next day Gosnold made another landing, at what later became known as "Sandy Point," in the extreme southern part of Barnstable County. During the next two weeks he explored the coast, naming Martha's Vineyard, Dover Cliff, Gosnold's Hope (now Buzzard's Bay), the Elizabeth Islands and some other places.

On the 28th he fixed upon a site for his plantation, "near a small lake of fresh water, about two miles in circumference," on the Island of Cuttyhunk, at the entrance to Buzzard's Bay. It was arranged for eleven of the men to remain with him upon the plantation, the Concord to return to England under command of Captain Gilbert. Three weeks were spent in building a fort and storehouse, and in lading the vessel with sassafras, "a goodly quantity of which grew near by." During this time several excursions were made to the mainland's "fertile

meadows, stately groves, pleasant brooks and beauteous rivers." By the time the fort and storehouse were completed it was noticed that the stock of provisions was running low and the project of establishing a plantation was abandoned. All went on board and on July 23, 1602, the Concord dropped anchor in the harbor of Exmouth, England.

#### PRING AND BROWNE

Gosnold's description of the country stimulated interest in the new continent and encouraged further explorations. The Virginia patent, granted to Sir Walter Raleigh in 1585, included the present State of Massachusetts, but Richard Hakluyt, an earnest advocate of colonizing the New World, and Robert Aldsworth obtained permission from Raleigh to send a vessel to that part of the coast that had been visited by Gosnold. They enlisted the coöperation of the mayor, aldermen and a number of the wealthy merchants of Bristol, and raised by subscription a fund of one thousand pounds to defray the expenses of an expedition. On April 10, 1603, two vessels—the "Speedwell" of fifty tons and the "Discoverer" of twenty-six—left Bristol. The former had a crew of thirty men and was commanded by Martin Pring, and the latter, with a crew of thirteen men, was commanded by Capt. William Browne. The two ships were provisioned for eight months and carried a large stock of cloth, hatchets, trinkets, etc., for the Indian trade.

The expedition struck the coast near the entrance to Penobscot Bay, and then cruised southward to the Vineyard Islands. There the Discoverer was laden with sassafras, which was then considered a panacea for "all the ills that flesh is heir to," and returned to England in July, leaving Pring with the Speedwell to make further explorations. In August the Indians in the vicinity began to show signs of hostility and Pring also returned to England, arriving at Bristol early in the year 1604.

#### WEYMOUTH'S EXPEDITION

To follow up the discoveries of Cabot, Gosnold and Pring, the Earl of Southampton and his brother-in-law, Lord Arundel, fitted out a vessel called the "Archangel" with a crew of twenty-eight men and placed Capt. George Weymouth in command. The Archangel left the port of Dartmouth on the last day of March, 1605, ostensibly to discover the long sought "Northwest Passage," but really to strengthen England's claim to the territory about Massachusetts Bay. About the middle of May Weymouth reached the shore near Cape Cod. From that point he proceeded northward, ascended the Kennebec River some distance and traded with the natives.

Captain Weymouth did one thing that was a stroke of bad policy, to say the least. He lured five Indians on board the Archangel and then set sail for England. The Indian captives were sold into bondage. This act engendered a feeling of hatred and distrust among the natives that grew as colonies were established in New England, until the Indians sought vengeance in the Pequot and King Philip wars.

## LONDON AND PLYMOUTH COMPANIES

Sir Walter Raleigh's failure to colonize Virginia within the time specified caused his patent to revert to the crown. Early in the Seventeenth Century applications were made by two companies for grants of land for plantations on the Atlantic coast, between the thirty-fourth and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude. Patents were issued to those companies on April 10, 1606, the southern grant to the London Company, called the "First Colony," and the northern to the Plymouth Company, or the "Second Colony." The London Company was authorized to establish a plantation at any point below  $41^{\circ}$  north latitude, and the Plymouth Company to open a plantation any where above  $38^{\circ}$ , though it was stipulated that the second plantation should be located not less than one hundred miles from the first.

The patent of the Plymouth Company was granted to "Thomas Hanham, Raleigh Gilbert (a nephew of Sir Walter Raleigh), William Parker, George Popham, and their associates, knights, gentlemen and merchants, or Exeter, Plymouth and other towns of the West of England." On the last day of May, 1607, this company started two ships—the "Gift of God" and the "Mary and John"—with about one hundred men, under Raleigh Gilbert and George Popham, to open a plantation. They failed to establish a permanent colony and it seems that no second effort was made under the patent of 1606.

## SMITH'S EXPLORATIONS

Capt. John Smith, who had been an active factor in the establishment of the London Company's colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, sailed from London early in March, 1614, with two vessels and forty-nine men to look for mines of gold or copper along the coast of New England. In the event he failed to find the mines, it was his intention to trade with the natives and carry back to England cargoes of fish and furs. He explored the coast from the mouth of the Penobscot (Kennebec) River to Cape Cod, crossed from Cape Ann to Cohasset, and some writers claim that he entered Boston Bay and to some extent explored its coast line. He prepared a map of the coast, upon which Quincy and Weymouth bays are shown with a fair degree of accuracy.

That Smith was an enthusiast regarding the beauties and possible advantages of the Massachusetts coast, may be seen from his report of the voyage, in which he says: "We saw forty several habitations (that is places where habitations might be successfully established) along the coast, sounded about twenty-five excellent harbours, in many whereof there is anchorage for 500 sails of ships of any burden, in some of them 1,000, and more than two hundred isles, overgrown with good timber of divers sorts of woods. \* \* \* Of all the four parts of the world that I have yet seen, not inhabited, could I but have the means to transport a colony, I would rather live here than anywhere. And if it did not maintain itself, were we but once indifferently well fitted, let us starve."

Associated with Smith on this expedition was an Englishman named Thomas Hunt, who carried about twenty Indians into slavery—an act that was inexcusable and which bore fruit in after years. Mather says it "was the unhappy occasion of the loss of many a man's estate and life, which the barbarians did

from thence seek to destroy; and the English, in consequence of this treachery, were constrained for a time to suspend their trade and abandon their project of a settlement in New England."

CAPT. THOMAS DERMER

Smith's voyage seems to have been a prosperous one, from a pecuniary point of view, and this created in his mind an earnest desire to make a second visit to the New World. His own capital being insufficient to outfit an expedition, he imparted his views to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, "a man of kindred enthusiasm," and to Doctor Sutcliffe, Dean of Exeter, who agreed to assist him. After some delay two ships—one of 200 and the other of 50 tons burthen—were furnished him for a second voyage. Before going two hundred leagues, the larger vessel, which was commanded by Captain Smith, sprang a leak and was forced to return, but the smaller, commanded by Capt. Thomas Dermer, kept on, returning to England after an absence of about five months.

Captain Dermer made another voyage in 1619, and this time carried back to America the Indian Tisquantum (or Squanto), who had been carried into captivity by Hunt five years before. This Squanto afterward became the firm friend and interpreter of the Pilgrims. Bradford (*History of Massachusetts*, p. 14) thinks it probable that on this second voyage Dermer visited the harbors of Boston and Plymouth. While the primary object of these voyages was the acquisition of wealth, Captain Dermer was instructed to find a place in which to establish a colony "for the propagation of the gospel among the ignorant and debased aboriginal inhabitants."

Barry, in his *History of Massachusetts*, says: "This journey of 1619, as preceding by a year the settlement of Plymouth, and as taken in the territory so often alluded to by the Pilgrims, is exceedingly interesting. It was an important addition to the knowledge of the country and prepared the way, by its friendly termination, for the hospitable reception by the generous Massasoit and his brother Quadequina."

In the fall of 1619 Captain Dermer sailed southward and passed the winter with the colony of the London Company at Jamestown. The following spring he returned to Cape Cod, where he encountered a party of hostile Indians and received several severe wounds, of which he afterward died.

FRENCH EXPLORATIONS

Before the middle of the Sixteenth Century, France had laid claim to the valley of the St. Lawrence River and the country about the Great Lakes, basing her claim upon the expeditions of Jacques Cartier in the early part of that century. In 1603 Henry the Great, then King of France, gave a patent to one of his friends named De Monts, covering the Atlantic coast from the fortieth to the forty-sixth parallels of north latitude. De Monts led an expedition to America and it is said he entered what is now Boston Harbor, in search of a place to plant a colony, but was discouraged by the hostile attitude of the Indians he found in that locality. He then explored the coast to the northward and finally located his settlement at Monts' desert (now Mount Desert), on the coast of Maine.

The greater portion of the grant made by King Henry to De Monts was included three years later in the grant made by the English crown to the Plymouth Company. This was the beginning of a conflict of French and English claims to territory in America—a conflict which was intensified when La Salle, in 1682, discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River and laid claim to all the territory drained by that stream and its tributaries, and which finally culminated in the French and Indian war.

Following the usage of nations to claim territory “by right of discovery,” England had the oldest tenure to a large part of the continent of North America, on account of the discoveries made by the Cabots in the closing years of the Fifteenth Century. Subsequent expeditions sent out from England strengthened the claim, which the other nations of Europe ultimately recognized, and in time English settlements were planted along the coast from Maine to Georgia.

## CHAPTER III

### INDIAN HISTORY

DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN TRIBES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY—NEW ENGLAND TRIBES—THE MASSACHUSETT—NARRAGANSETT—NIPMUCK—THE PEQUOT WAR—THE WAMPANOAG—KING PHILIP'S WAR—THE PRAYING INDIANS—INDIAN DEEDS TO THE LAND.

NOTE—Indian names are spelled in various ways, every writer on the subject adopting the form best suited to his ideas. In this chapter the form used is that sanctioned by the United States Government and employed in the reports of the Bureau of Ethnology.

#### NAME AND DISTRIBUTION

When the first European explorers came to America they found here a race of copper-colored people. Believing that Columbus had opened the way to the eastern coast of Asia, and that the country was India, they gave these people the name of "Indians." Their error regarding the geography of the earth has long since been corrected, but the name they conferred upon the natives still remains.

At the close of the Fifteenth Century, when the first explorations were made along the Atlantic Coast, this race was divided into groups or families, each of which was distinguished by certain physical and linguistic characteristics. The groups were subdivided into tribes, each of which was ruled by a chief. New England was in the territory occupied by the Algonquian family, the most numerous and powerful of all the groups, and numbered almost as many tribes as all the others combined. The Algonquian country may be described as a great triangle, roughly bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and by lines drawn from the most northern point of Newfoundland and Cape Hatteras to the western end of Lake Superior. The tribes with which the early settlers of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies came chiefly in contact, and which figured most conspicuously in New England history, were the Massachusett, Narragansett, Nipmuck, Pequot and Wampanoag, all of Algonquian origin.

#### THE MASSACHUSETT

According to J. Hammond Trumbull, of the American Antiquarian Society, the name Massachusett is derived from three Indian words, "Massa" (great), "wadchu" (hill or mountain), and "eset" (place). The Indians bearing this name were known as "The people of the great hill," the eastern slope of the Blue Hills.

in what is now the Town of Milton, having been "the cradle, the home and the grave of the race." They claimed the country along the Atlantic Coast from Plymouth to Salem and, according to their traditions, at the beginning of the Seventeenth Century they were a powerful tribe, numbering about three thousand warriors, under the great sachem, Nanepashemet.

Capt. John Smith, in his account of his voyage in 1614, describes the Massachusetts Indians as "tall and strong-limbed people, very kind, but in their fury no less valiant; possessors of large cornfields and dwelling in plantations which covered the islands in the bay." At that time they had about twenty villages, eleven of which Smith mentioned by name in his report. Among them were Conohasset, Neponset, Wessagusset, and Passonagessit, all names familiar to the student of Norfolk County history.

In 1615, the year following Smith's voyage, Nanepashemet made war upon the Tarratine or Penobscot Indians and the tribe suffered heavy losses through repeated defeats. This war lasted about four years, or until 1619, when Nanepashemet was killed at his village near what is now the Town of Medford by a war party of the Tarratine. He was the last great sachem of the Massachusetts. While the war with the Tarratine was going on, a number of the Massachusetts villages were depopulated in 1616-17 by a pestilence, which some writers state was nothing more or less than an epidemic of smallpox, but that is not certain.

When the first white men came to Plymouth and Wessagusset, they found a remnant of the tribe living about Passonagessit (now Mount Wollaston) under the chief Chickatabot (House Afire). North of the Neponset River was another band under the sachem Obbatinewat, and south of the Monatiquot, in what is now the Town of Weymouth, dwelt a few under the chief Aberdecest. Prof. A. F. Chamberlain, of Clark University, in the Handbook of the United States Bureau of Ethnology, says that in 1621 Chickatabot, who was then the ruling sachem of the tribe, submitted to English authority and entered into a treaty of peace which was kept sacredly as long as he lived. Ten years later he visited Governor Winthrop at Boston, "behaving like an Englishman." The tribe then numbered about five hundred, all that was left of what had but a few years before been one of the most powerful Indian tribes in New England. Chickatabot was a man of note and influence among his people and a firm friend of the white man. He died of smallpox in 1633. A few years after his death most of the surviving members of his band joined the "Praying Indians," as the converts of the missionary John Eliot were called, and lived with them in the villages of Natick, Nonantum and Ponkapog.

#### THE NARRAGANSETT

The Narragansett (People of the small point) lived west of the Narragansett Bay, in what is now the State of Rhode Island, and extending northwest to the country occupied by the Nipmuck. They had a number of deities, such as the sun, moon, water, fire, and certain animals, and celebrated numerous feasts. As they did not live in Massachusetts, the early settlers of Norfolk County did not come in close touch with them except at rare intervals. They joined the Wampanoag in the conflict known as King Philip's war, and in the swamp fight near

Kingston, Rhode Island, December 19, 1675, lost nearly one thousand men in killed, wounded and prisoners. After this war the members of the tribe became exiles among the other tribes in the vicinity.

#### THE NIPMUCK

The name Nipmuck, or Nipamaug, means "Fresh water fishing place," and was applied to these Indians on account of the location of their habitat, which was in the southern part of what is now Worcester County, Massachusetts. Some ethnologists have classified them as one of the Massachusetts subtribes, but James Mooney, of the United States Bureau of Ethnology, says: "Their villages had no apparent political connection, and the different parts of their territory were subject to their more powerful neighbors, the Massachusetts, Wampanoag, Narragansett and Mohegan."

From this it would appear that, even if they had at some time been related to the Massachusetts Indians, they afterward became an independent tribe, though small in numbers. In 1674 the missionaries had seven villages in the Nipmuck country and felt encouraged over the progress the Indians were making toward Christianity and civilization. But the next year nearly all the able-bodied Nipmuck braves joined the hostile tribes in King Philip's war. After the war those who had taken part against the whites fled to Canada or New York.

#### THE PEQUOT

In the native language of this tribe they were called the Paquatong, which meant "Destroyers," a name that well describes their character and warlike disposition. Before they were conquered by the English in 1637, they were the most quarrelsome and dreaded of all the southern New England tribes. Tradition says they were originally one people with the Mohegan, from whom they separated and came to the country of the Niantic, where they drove out the natives and took possession. At one time the Pequot tribe numbered over three thousand, but war and pestilence had done their work, so that when the first white men came to Rhode Island the tribe did not count more than half that number.

Their principal sachem at the time the first English settlements were made in New England, and for several years thereafter, was named Sassacus. Nearly every schoolboy has heard the story of how this Sassacus sent to the Plymouth colony a bundle of arrows wrapped in a snake skin; how Squanto, or Tisquantum, the friendly Indian, explained that this was equivalent to a declaration of war; and how Capt. Miles Standish filled the snake skin with gunpowder and bullets and sent it back to the Pequot sachem.

#### THE PEQUOT WAR

This answer to the challenge, as bold as it was unexpected, had the tendency to dampen the warlike ardor of Sassacus for a time. But the vindictive nature of the Pequot could not long be restrained. In 1636 some members of the tribe killed a trader who they thought had not treated them right, and early the next

year they began committing depredations upon the infant settlements of Rhode Island and Connecticut. The white settlers of New England made common cause against the Pequot. Roger Williams enlisted the coöperation of the Mohegan chief Uncas, with seventy of his warriors; Capt. John Mason of Hartford raised a force of ninety men; Captain Patrick of Plymouth recruited a company of forty volunteers in that colony; and Captain Underhill took twenty men from the Massachusetts Bay settlements, about one-half of whom went from Norfolk County.

These combined forces marched against the Pequot fort on the Mystic River, which was defended by practically all the fighting men of the tribe. The fort was surrounded and set on fire and about six hundred Indians perished in the flames or were shot down while trying to escape. A number of captives were taken, some of whom were sold into slavery in the West Indies, small parties of those who escaped joined other tribes and the name of the Pequot became extinct. Says Barber, in his "Historical Collections of Massachusetts": "This first war with the Indians struck such terror into the surrounding tribes, that for forty years afterwards they never openly commenced hostilities with the English."

#### THE WAMPANOAG

During the greater part of the Seventeenth Century this was one of the leading tribes of New England. Their habitat was along the eastern shore of Narragansett Bay, the name Wampanoag meaning "People of the east." From the Narragansett Bay they claimed the territory northward to the country occupied by the Massachusetts confederacy. The Nauset Indians, a subtribe of the Wampanoag, were found on Cape Cod in 1602 by Gosnold, who traded with them, but a few years later the French explorer Champlain found them inclined to be unfriendly.

Massasoit, the principal sachem of the Wampanoag, was the first Indian chieftain to enter into a treaty of peace with the early colonists, which treaty he kept in good faith as long as he lived. He lived in a village called Pokanoket, a name which has sometimes been incorrectly applied to the Indians of this tribe. Massasoit had two sons—Wamsutta and Metacom—and on the occasion of one of his visits to the white men, he requested that his sons be given English names. The result was that Wamsutta was called Alexander, and Metacom took the name of Philip.

#### KING PHILIP'S WAR

Upon the death of Massasoit, about 1659 or 1660, Alexander became sachem of the Wampanoag. He lived but a short time and in 1662 the scepter passed to the younger son, who is known in history as King Philip, or Philip of Pokanoket, and who has been called "the most remarkable of all the Indians of New England."

Philip was quite unlike his father. He was cunning, ambitious, and filled with an unalterable hatred of the white people, who he believed were robbing the Indians of their hunting grounds. Soon after becoming sachem, he renewed the treaty of peace made by his father some fifty years before, but about 1670 the settlers reached the conclusion that he was engaged in some work of treachery.

So grave did this suspicion become that in 1673 some of the towns of Norfolk County were ordered by the General Court to place themselves in a state of defense.

In Dedham a barrel of gunpowder and other ammunition were procured; the small cannon which had been given to the town by the General Court in 1650 was mounted on wheels; a garrison was organized, a watch set, and the meeting house was designated as a depository for supplies in case of an attack or siege. Through these preparations Dedham was spared the fate of some of her sister towns three years later. Similar preparations were made in a few of the other towns, and they likewise escaped an Indian attack.

All doubts as to Philip's bad faith and hostile intentions were removed in the winter of 1674-75, when John Sausamun, a Praying Indian, informed the governor of the Plymouth colony that the wily sachem was engaged in an effort to unite all the Indian tribes in a general uprising against the whites, hoping thereby to exterminate them or drive them back across the sea, and thus regain full possession of their hunting grounds. Not long after this Sausamun's body was found under the ice in Assawomset Pond, near Middleboro, in the western part of what is now Plymouth County.

Three Indians were arrested, charged with the murder, and one of them confessed that they had been incited to the act by Philip. The three were hanged at Plymouth on June 8, 1675. The hanging of these men told Philip that his conspiracy was fully known to the hated palefaces, and he hastened forward his movements. He was then living at Mount Hope, Rhode Island, and from there sent out the order to his warriors to be ready to move against the white settlements. The Indians had a superstition that the party which struck the first blow in a fray would be vanquished in the end, and the plan was to provoke the settlers to an assault by killing their cattle while they were attending church on Sunday. The first hostile demonstration was made against the Town of Swanze, Bristol County, at the head of Narragansett Bay, on Sunday, June 24, 1675. Nine men were killed and several wounded before the white people had time to organize for resistance. Brookfield, Worcester County, was the next point of attack, and every house in the town but one was burned. Before the close of the summer Hadley, Deerfield and Northfield in the Connecticut Valley were attacked, a number of white people killed and many buildings burned.

In the fall the commissioners of the United Colonies called for one thousand men to suppress the insurrection and appointed Governor Winslow of Massachusetts commander-in-chief. Massachusetts furnished six companies of infantry and a troop of horse, under command of Major Appleton; five companies under Major Treat came from Connecticut; and Major Bradford recruited two companies in Plymouth.

Mention has already been made of the overwhelming defeat of the Narragansett Indians in the winter of 1675-76. Among the chiefs of that tribe was Pumoham (commonly written Pumham), sachem of Shaomet, "one of the stoutest and most valiant sachems that belonged to the Narragansett." Some years prior to the breaking out of the war he had quarreled with Miantonomo, chief sachem of the tribe, to whom he was subordinate, and placed himself under the colonial government for protection. Upon the death of Miantonomo, his son Canonchet became the chief sachem, Pumoham returned to his allegiance and

the two chieftains joined Philip in 1675 with about one thousand Narragansett warriors. Next to Philip, Pumoham "was the most dreaded of the Indian leaders."

It was against the Narragansett Indians that the expedition raised in the fall of 1675 was sent. Pumoham and Canonchet, when they learned that a large force was marching against them, took up a strong position in a swamp in the northern part of Rhode Island and awaited its approach. After a toilsome march over rough roads, in severe winter weather, the white men surrounded the swamp and the assault was made on December 19, 1675. What followed is thus told by John Davis in the "New England Memorial."

"The attack on the enemy's fort was completely successful. It was a counterpart to the memorable exploit against the Pequots, forty years before, by the men of Connecticut. A day of horrible conflagration and slaughter inflicted a blow, from which the Narragansett nation never recovered. Seven hundred of their fighting men fell in the action, and it was computed that at least three hundred more died of their wounds and from the hardships which ensued. Such are the numbers given by Hubbard in his Narrative, derived from the confession of Potock, one of the Indian chiefs, afterward taken at Rhode Island and put to death in Boston. It was a dear-bought victory to the assailants. Five brave captains were slain in the action: Davenport of Boston, son of Capt. Richard Davenport, distinguished in the Pequot war, Johnson of Roxbury, Gardner of Salem, Gallop of New London, and Marshall of Windsor. Captain Seeley of Stratford was mortally wounded and lived but a few days. The whole loss sustained by the assailants was eighty-five killed and about one hundred and fifty wounded. Among the wounded were Major Bradford and Captain Church, of Plymouth Colony, and Lieutenant Upham of Massachusetts. The latter died of his wounds some months later."

Up to this time the war had not seriously affected Norfolk County. Her trials were yet to come. On February 12, 1676, a party of Indians made a sudden descent upon the Town of Weymouth and burned several houses. Hurd's History of Norfolk County gives the date of this attack on Weymouth as February 12, 1675, but all the histories of the war consulted by the writer, except one, agree that the hostilities began with the attack on Swanzy, June 24, 1675, more than four months after the date mentioned by Hurd. The exception is the account given by Niles, who fixes each of the events connected with the war one year earlier than their actual occurrence. It is possible that this may account for the statement made by Hurd.

Early in February, 1676, the main body of the Indians assembled at Wachusett Mountain, in the Town of Princeton, Worcester County. Here they divided, one party moving northward toward Concord and Haverhill, and the other against Lancaster, Marlboro and Medfield. The latter was commanded by the chief called Monaco. Lancaster was burned and pillaged on the 10th, and late on the 20th the citizens of Medfield observed signs of the enemy's approach. A strong watch was set during the night, but the Indians, under cover of darkness, managed to elude the pickets and the next morning found a considerable number of them secreted in the outbuildings and even under some of the dwelling houses. As soon as the watch was removed, these skulkers came forth from their hiding places and applied the torch. Altogether about fifty buildings were consumed. The records of the town contain the names of seventeen residents who were

killed and a number received dangerous wounds, from the effects of which a few afterward died.

In anticipation of an attack, the minister, Mr. Wilson, had sent a letter to the governor and the council asking for soldiers to defend the town. About a hundred men were sent there, but they were distributed around at the houses of the citizens and could not assemble in time to drive off the enemy until the damage was done. The cannon was fired, hoping that the reports could be heard at Dedham and bring reinforcements. The Indians were afraid of artillery, and at the first discharge retreated across the river, setting fire to the bridge as they departed. Then across the river, in full view of the burning town, they indulged in a grand feast. The number of savages engaged in this nefarious work was estimated at five hundred.

Shortly after the destruction of Medfield, Indians were seen prowling about in the woods near Wrentham and the General Court, "in consideration that many Indians were skulking about our plantations, doing much mischief and damage," offered a bounty of three pounds per head "to every person who should surprise, slay, or bring in prisoner any such Indians." In March, 1676, the inhabitants of Wrentham left their homes and went to Dedham for protection, remaining there until the spring of 1677.

In April, 1676, John Jacobs was killed by the Indians while working in his field in the Town of Cohasset, then a part of Hingham, and four or five dwelling houses were burned. On the 19th of the same month Thomas Pratt was killed at Weymouth. These outrages were the work of a small marauding party and not that of the main body of Philip's army. It was probably the same party that went into Braintree, where they killed three men and a woman. The account of this raid says they carried the woman "about six or seven miles, and then killed her and hung her up in an unseemly and barbarous manner by the wayside leading from Braintree to Bridgewater."

Pumoham, who had managed to escape at the time of the "Swamp Fight" in December, 1675, gathered a handful of warriors and commenced preying upon the unguarded settlements. About the middle of July, 1676, it was learned that this predatory band was in Dedham woods, waiting for such time as they could catch the people unawares to commit further depredations. Captain Hunting quietly organized a small company of Dedham and Medfield men, with a few friendly Indians, and went in pursuit. Thirty-five of the Indians were captured without resistance, but Pumoham refused to surrender. After being fatally wounded he seriously injured one of Hunting's men with his tomahawk, and Barber says "he was slain raging like a wild beast." Fifteen Indians were killed in this action, which took place on July 25, 1676.

Sometime in the summer of 1676, the exact date is uncertain, a man named Rocket, while looking for a stray horse, came upon an Indian trail near the present line between Franklin and Wrentham. Suspecting that it was the trail of a war party, he followed it with great caution until almost sunset, when he discovered the Indians preparing to go into camp at the foot of a rocky eminence near the Mill River. He hurried back to the settlements and reported what he had seen. A company of thirteen men was collected and, under command of Capt. Robert Ware, was guided to the encampment by Mr. Rocket. Captain Ware stationed his men in the thickets about the camp, with instructions not

to fire until it was light enough to aim with certainty. About sunrise the Indians arose and began their preparations for resuming their march. Instantly thirteen muskets were discharged and as many savages fell killed or wounded. The sudden and unexpected attack threw the others into consternation and they sought safety in flight. They were pursued and several of them killed. The rock where this encounter took place is still known as "Indian Rock."

From the time of the first attack on Swanzey to August 1, 1676, fifty-two towns were attacked and twelve of them almost or quite totally destroyed. Then, seeing that the colonists were thoroughly aroused, Philip retired to a wild tract of country, known as the Pocasset Cedar Swamp, in the northern part of Rhode Island. Capt. Benjamin Church of Plymouth, with a force of white men and friendly Indians, made the last march of the war and reached the swamp on the afternoon of August 12, 1676. In drawing a cordon about the swamp the men were placed in pairs—a white man and an Indian together. It was dark before Captain Church could perfect his arrangements, and a night attack was made upon Philip's swamp fortress. Many of the Indians fell at the first volley and others were killed while trying to escape. Philip made a bold dash for liberty and succeeded in getting through the first line, when he encountered one of the pairs mentioned. The white man's gun missed fire, when the Indian fired and the bullet sped true to its mark. Thus ended the career of Philip of Pokanoket, whose war of fourteen months cost the colonies six hundred brave men, the destruction of a dozen towns, several hundred dwellings scattered through the rural districts, and about half a million dollars in money. Philip's wife and son were captured and sold into slavery. The defeat of the Indians was complete, and never again did any of the tribes make open war upon the New England colonies.

#### THE PRAYING INDIANS

In October, 1646, John Eliot, the "Indian Apostle," preached his first sermon to the natives at what afterward became known as Newton Corner. The Indian village that subsequently grew up there was called Nonantum, or "Place of rejoicing." In 1650 Mr. Eliot founded the village of Natick, where the "Praying Indians," as his converts were called, were given a reservation of six thousand acres. A few years later Natick had a population of over two hundred, and until the time of King Philip's war, it was probably the most important Indian village in New England. In 1663 there were fourteen praying villages.

Mr. Eliot translated the Bible and some other works into the Indian language, established schools among the children of the forest, and taught them many of the customs of the white man's civilization. After his death the Praying Indians gradually decreased in numbers. Some of them took part in the French and Indian war and at its close the population of Natick was only thirty-seven.

#### INDIAN DEEDS

It was the policy of the Massachusetts colony, in granting tracts of land to companies of persons for the purpose of founding towns, to make such grants subject to the Indian title. The Council of New England advised the grantees

to purchase the title of any Indians who might claim rights of inheritance to any of the lands included in the grant, thereby maintaining friendly relations with the natives and refuting all charges of confiscating their hunting grounds.

The first purchase of Norfolk County land was made soon after the Town of Dedham was incorporated (possibly before the act of incorporation was passed), from the sachems who claimed the country west of the Neponset River and south and east of the Charles River. The tract included the present Town of Dedham and some of the adjacent towns, though it does not appear that any deed or treaty relating to this purchase was ever made a matter of record. The Indian title to Medfield and some of the adjacent territory was purchased of Chickatabot.

Says Worthington: "In 1660 two agents are appointed to treat with the sagamores who owned Wollomonopoag, now Wrentham. In 1662 Richard Ellis and Timothy Dwight, the agents appointed for that purpose, made a report that they had made a treaty with Philip the sagamore, for lands six miles square, or as much as six miles square, at Wollomonopoag, and exhibited his deed thereof, under hand and seal. Six days after this report is made, the town ratify the treaty and assess their common rights to the amount of twenty-four pounds ten shillings, for the purpose of paying King Philip the stipulated price for his deed."

In the fall of 1669 Philip notified the Dedham authorities that he still owned certain lands in the vicinity of Wollomonopoag, and offered to sell them to the white people. The Dedham selectmen appointed a commission of five persons, at the head of which was Timothy Dwight, to treat with him for the lands, "provided he can show that he has any rights to the same, and provided he will secure the town against future claims of other sachems." It is extremely doubtful whether Philip really had any more right to the lands in that section of the county than any other Indian. But his experience of nine years before taught him that the white inhabitants were willing to pay, and, realizing that it was only a question of time when they would come into possession at any rate, he took advantage of the situation to get as much money as he could. On November 15, 1669, the town ordered an assessment of seventeen pounds eight shillings to pay for this second purchase of Philip.

In the meantime, July 4, 1665, the Indians Wampatuck, Ahahden and Squamuck, sons of Chickatabot, deeded certain lands in what are now the towns of Cohasset and Hingham to Capt. Joshua Hubbard and Ensign John Thaxter, for the white inhabitants, thus confirming the act of their father in permitting the white people to occupy the land, though it is not certain that Chickatabot sold the land outright.

On August 5, 1665, Wampatuck, alias Josias, sagamore of Massachusetts, son of Chickatabot, with the consent of his wise men, viz.: "Squamog, his brother Daniel, old Nahatun, William Mananiomott, Job Nassott, Manuntago and William Nahatun," sold to the white settlers "all of the east of the lands within the bounds of Braintree . . . being bounded on the sea side with the northeast, and with the Dorchester line on the northwest, and by the Waymouth line on the southeast and with the Dorchester line on the southwest."

The white men who negotiated this purchase were Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, Francis Eliot, William Needham, William Savill, Henry Neale, Richard Thayer and Christopher Webb. The consideration was twenty-one pounds and

ten shillings. For many years this deed, properly framed, hung in the town house of old Braintree.

On April 14, 1680, a deed was executed by William Nahaton, alias Quaanan, and his brothers Peter Natoogus and Benjamin Nahaton, and their sisters Tah-keesuisk Nahaton and Hannah Nahaton, alias Jammewwosh, "living in Punkapogg, near Blue Hill in the bounds of Dorchester, to any lands lying in the Town of Dedham." This deed especially describes a "parcel or tract of land as it lieth towards the northerly side of Dedham, by the Great Falls of the Charles River, to the Natick saw mill brook," etc., to which land the Indians relinquished "all right, title and whole interest." This purchase was brought about by Timothy Dwight, Richard Ellice and Thomas Battelle, commissioners appointed to negotiate the treaty and receive the title to the land.

John Magus, a minor sachem living at Natick Village, and his wife, Sara Magus, executed a deed on April 18, 1681, to Daniel Fisher, Thomas Fuller, Richard Ellice and Nathaniel Bullard, commissioners appointed by the Dedham authorities, embracing "the whole parcel or tract of land as it lieth in Dedham bounds," etc. The tract thus conveyed was known as Magus Hill and included the present towns of Natick and Needham and that part of Dedham known as Dedham Island. The consideration was five pounds in money and Indian corn to the value of three pounds.

The territory now included in the Town of Brookline was first obtained of Chickatabot in 1630. On March 19, 1685, his grandson, Charles Josias, alias Josias Wampatuck, and his councilors, by and with the advice and consent of his guardians, William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley, made a deed to Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Samuel Shrimpton, John Joyliffe, Simon Lynde, John Saffin, Edward Wyllys, Daniel Turel, Sr., Henry Allen, John Faireweather, Timothy Prout, Sr., and Theophilus Ffrary, "in behalf of the rest of the Proprietated Inhabitants of the Town of Boston and Precincts thereof," confirming the act of his grandfather fifty-five years before. The consideration mentioned in the deed was a "Valuable Summe of Money," payment of which is acknowledged.

On April 18, 1685, this same "Josias, alias Josias Wampatuck, son and heir of the late sachem of the Indians inhabiting the Massachusetts, in New England, and grandson of Chickatabot, the former grand sachem," made a deed confirming the sale of land included in the town of Dedham by his grandfather fifty years before. The deed was approved by William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley, guardians for Josias, who received four pounds and ten shillings as a consideration. Some of these ancient deeds are now in the collections of the Dedham Historical Society.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS

RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY—THE PILGRIMS AND PURITANS—IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA—GREAT PATENT FOR NEW ENGLAND—THE MAYFLOWER—THE COMPACT—THE WESTON COLONY—ROBERT GORGES—THE DORCHESTER COMPANY—THE MASSACHUSETTS COMPANY—TRANSFER OF THE CHARTER—SETTLEMENTS IN 1630.

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, James I ascended the English throne. At that time there were four religious organizations in existence in England. First, the Church of England, which had the sanction and support of the British Government and its King; Second, the Separatists (later known as the Pilgrims), who refused to affiliate in any way with the Church of England, or to acknowledge the authority of the state church; Third, the Puritans, or Nonconformists, who differed from the Anglican Church only in their disregard of certain ritualistic rites and observances; and Fourth, the Roman Catholics, who in some parts of the country formed the prevailing religious power. The religious situation in England at the close of the Sixteenth Century wielded an important influence upon the early settlement of North America.

Twice before becoming king—in 1581 and again in 1590—James I had openly professed a sincere belief in the teachings of John Knox and the Puritans. On April 3, 1603, when about to leave Scotland for his coronation, he gave thanks publicly in the kirk, declaring that "As God has promoted me to greater power, it is my duty to establish religion and take away corruption in both England and Scotland." This public and apparently fearless public utterance gave great encouragement to the Puritans. But they soon learned that James was not sincere. In his address to Parliament in 1604, he pronounced the Puritans to be "a sect insufferable in a well governed commonwealth." Three-fourths of the members of the House of Commons sympathized with the Puritans, and they were not slow in showing by their actions that the insolence of the king had awakened the indignation of the Nonconformists. The attitude of the House of Commons led James to say in a letter written about this time: "I would rather live like a hermit than be a king over such a people as the pack of Puritans are that overrule the lower house." His motto seemed to be "No bishop, no king." In July, 1604, he issued a proclamation in which he declared that he wanted only "one doctrine, one discipline, one religion, in substance and in ceremony," and ordered "all curates and lecturers to conform strictly to the rubrics of the prayer book, on pain of deprivation."

Not long after this proclamation was promulgated, James confidently asserted that he would make all dissenters conform to the ceremonies of the Church of

England, or he would harry them out of the country. And that was exactly what happened. Large numbers of the Separatists refused to conform and left their native land to find refuge in Holland. It was at this time that they took the name of Pilgrims. For several years a congregation of the Pilgrims was located at Leyden, under the pastoral guidance of Rev. John Robinson, who has been spoken of as "the most learned, polished and modest spirit that ever separated from the Church of England."

#### IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA

In February, 1619, the Pilgrims in Holland sent agents to England to obtain a patent to land in America. After considerable delay a patent was issued in the name of John Wincob. The original document has been lost and, so far as known, there are no copies in existence. It is believed that it covered certain territory that now lies within the State of New York. As soon as the patent had been obtained, the Pilgrims began making their preparations for emigrating, but more than a year elapsed before the first company was ready. The delay in completing their preparations caused radical changes in their original plans for planting a colony in the New World. Another agency in altering their plans was the

#### GREAT PATENT FOR NEW ENGLAND

On July 23, 1620, Sir Thomas Coventry was ordered to prepare a new patent for the Plymouth Company for the king's royal signature. The result was the "Great Patent for New England," signed by King James and conveying to forty of his subjects "all that part of North America extending from the fortieth to the forty-eighth degree of north latitude, and between these parallels from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

The company of forty, which included some of the most wealthy and powerful of England's nobility, was known as "The Council established at Plymouth, in the County of Devon, for the Planting, Ruling, Ordering and Governing New England in America." The Great Patent did not pass the seals until November 3, 1620.

#### THE MAYFLOWER

While the Great Patent was pending, those of the Pilgrims who had decided to try their fortunes in America made everything ready for their departure. The "Speedwell" of 60 tons was chartered in Holland, and the "Mayflower" of 180 tons was chartered in England for the voyage. The two vessels started on August 13, 1620, but the Speedwell sprang a leak and was forced to put in at Dartmouth for repairs, the Mayflower waiting until her sister ship could be put in condition. After a few days another start was made, but again the Speedwell began to leak and the two ships put in at Plymouth, where on August 21st the Speedwell was condemned as unseaworthy. On September 6, 1620, the Mayflower, with 101 persons on board, left Plymouth and on November 9th the immigrants sighted the cliffs of Cape Cod.

## THE COMPACT

Before effecting a landing and choosing a site for their settlement, the men on board assembled in the cabin of the Mayflower and drew up the following agreement or compact:

"In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are under written, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign, King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., having undertaken, for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do, by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together unto a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

"In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names, at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the 18th, and of Scotland the 54th, A. D. 1620."

This compact was signed by every man on board and for ten years it was the only constitution or organic law of the Plymouth colony. On the day that it was signed a party of fifteen men, well armed, was set ashore at Long Point to explore the coast and select a location for the proposed plantation. This was followed by several similar exploring parties until December 11, 1620, when they landed at Plymouth. A fort and storehouse were built and land was allotted to the several families. The white man had at last gained a permanent footing in New England.

## THE WESTON COLONY

In July, 1622, Thomas Weston, a merchant of London, sent out two ships—the "Charity" of 100 tons and the "Swan" of 30 tons, with fifty or sixty men, to establish a colony. The following month the ships arrived at Plymouth, where a majority of the men lived at the expense of the Pilgrims while the Swan went along the coast to seek a suitable location for a settlement. The men were not of a type to win the confidence and respect of the Pilgrims. A few of them were honest, but most of them were "rude and profane fellows," and none was fitted by training or experience to develop a new country.

After a few weeks the Swan returned to Plymouth and reported in favor of a place called Wessagusset (also written Wessaguscus), about twenty-five miles north of Plymouth, in what is now the Town of Weymouth, Norfolk County. In October, after buildings had been erected for the use of those who remained as colonists, the Charity returned to England, leaving a supply of provisions sufficient to last the colony through the winter. But they were without a competent leader, inexperienced in the work of building up a settlement in a wilderness, with no settled habits of industry, and the supply of provisions was soon

exhausted, after which they applied to their neighbors at Plymouth for assistance. Finding the people of Plymouth almost as destitute as they were themselves, they proposed to the Pilgrims to furnish the Swan to visit some of the Indian villages along the coast and procure a supply of corn. Governor Bradford, with a few men and the friendly Indian, Squanto, took the vessel and went to a place called Monamoycke (now Chatham), where he obtained eight hogsheads of corn and some beans.

Past experience had taught the men of Wessagusset nothing, it seems, for they soon wasted their share of the corn and beans. Some of them worked for the Indians to get food, some stole from the natives, and a few actually died of starvation. In their idleness they incurred the displeasure of Wituwamat, a minor chief of the Massachusetts Indians, who threatened to destroy the colony. They appealed to the Pilgrims for protection and Miles Standish—the only man in New England with previous military experience—was sent on March 23, 1623, with a few men, to settle the difficulty. The Indians also flocked to Wessagusset and for a little while trouble seemed imminent. Inviting Wituwamat, Pecksuot and two other Indian leaders into a room, ostensibly for a parley, the door was closed upon a signal from Standish and the Indians were assaulted. Three of them were killed in the room and the other one was taken out and hanged. The death of their leaders demoralized the Indians, who fled, and Standish returned to Plymouth. A few of Weston's men went with him and the others went on board the Swan and sailed away.

#### ROBERT GORGES

In December, 1622, Robert Gorges received from the Plymouth Council a grant of land in Massachusetts, with "all shores and coasts for ten English miles in a straight line toward the northeast." In other words, his grant lay north of the Pilgrims' colony and extended along the coast for ten miles. Robert was the youngest son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and soon after receiving the above mentioned grant he was appointed lieutenant-general of the country.

In the latter part of August, or early in September, 1623, Robert Gorges, accompanied by Rev. William Morrell and a number of colonists, some of whom brought their families, arrived in Massachusetts Bay. After selecting his ten miles of coast line, to which his grant gave him title, he established his colony at Wessagusset, where Weston had attempted to plant a settlement the year before. This was the second permanent colony to be established in Massachusetts. It was located within the present limits of Norfolk County, and a more detailed history of it is given in the chapter on the Town of Weymouth.

#### THE DORCHESTER COMPANY

Early in 1623 a patent was obtained by Robert Cushman and Edward Winslow, "for themselves and associates," to a tract of land on Cape Ann where a fishing station was established. A little later the Dorchester Company was organized and a plantation opened, which for the first year was under the management of John Tilly and Thomas Gardner. They were succeeded by Robert Conant, who in 1626 removed the plantation to Naumkeag (now Salem), hoping

"that in following times it might prove a receptacle for such as, upon account of religious views, would be willing to begin a foreign plantation in this part of the world."

After the removal of the colony to Naumkeag, the Dorchester Company was dissolved, and Rev. John White, who has been called "the father of the colony at Cape Ann," undertook to get a new patent to lands bordering upon Massachusetts Bay. In the meantime King James had died and was succeeded in March, 1625, by his son, Charles I, who followed his royal father in political and religious matters. Through Mr. White's influence, a number of London merchants subscribed for stock in the enterprise, and, when a sufficient amount of stock had been subscribed to make a good showing, application was made for a patent.

#### THE MASSACHUSETTS COMPANY

On March 19, 1628, a patent was granted to Sir Henry Rosewell, Sir John Young, Thomas Southcote, John Humphrey, John Endicott and Simon Whetcomb as the Massachusetts Company, embracing "that part of New England lying between three miles to the north of the Merrimac and three miles to the south of the Charles River, and of every part thereof in the Massachusetts Bay; and in the length between the described breadth, from the Atlantic Ocean to the South Sea."

One of the first acts of the new company was to select John Endicott, "a Puritan of the sternest mould," to conduct a party of emigrants to the Conant settlement at Naumkeag "to carry on the plantation of the Dorchester agents and to make way for the settlement of another colony in the Massachusetts." Endicott and his family, with about forty or fifty colonists, embarked at Weymouth, England, on the good ship "Abigail" in the latter part of June, 1628, and on the 6th of September arrived safely at Naumkeag.

In May, 1629, they sent three ships—the "Talbot," 300 tons, Capt. Thomas Beecher; the "George Bonaventure," 300 tons, Capt. Thomas Coxe; and the "Lion's Whelp," 120 tons, master not known, with about two hundred planters to join the colony under Endicott. They arrived at Naumkeag late in June, bringing the news that they were soon to be followed by three other ships bringing additional colonists. John Endicott was elected governor, and a council of thirteen, of which the governor was one, was chosen to control the affairs of the colony. In June, 1629, a second colony was established under the auspices of the Massachusetts Company at Charlestown.

#### TRANSFER OF THE CHARTER

Up to this time the company and the colony had been separate, the former in England making rules and regulations for the latter in America. Among the Puritans was a deep-seated idea that those who left England and came to America should be given the privilege to establish such government as they desired—"to form a new state, as fully to all intents and purposes, as if they had been in a state of nature and were making their first entrance into civilized society."

They therefore sought to have the charter transferred to America and finally succeeded, the transfer being made on August 28, 1629. Prior to the transfer,

Matthew Cradock had been governor of the company and John Endicott of the colony. By the transfer of the charter the company and the colony were blended under one governor. John Winthrop was the "first governor chosen by the freemen of the colony within its limits under the charter after its transfer."

AT THE CLOSE OF 1630

During the year 1630 seventeen ships, carrying about fifteen hundred persons, arrived from the mother country. By the close of that year, just a decade after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, at least a dozen settlements had been established in Massachusetts, to wit: Plymouth, Wessagusset (now Weymouth), Watertown, Mount Wollaston, Mattapan (now Dorchester), Salem, Lynn, New Town (now Cambridge), Charlestown, Noddle's Island (now East Boston), Roxbury and Shawmut (now Boston). Some of these settlements were situated within the present borders of Norfolk County, and their history is given in connection with that of the town in which they are located.

## CHAPTER V

### PIONEER LIFE AND CUSTOMS

CONDITIONS NOW AND THEN—THE FIRST HOUSES—HEAT AND LIGHT—FURNITURE  
AND UTENSILS—FOOD AND CLOTHING—MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES OF PIONEER  
LIFE.

In these early years of the Twentieth Century the citizen of Norfolk is in the full enjoyment of the fruits of modern invention and progress. If he desires to visit another part of the county he can step into his automobile and glide along over an improved highway almost with the speed of the wind. Should he not be the fortunate possessor of an automobile, the network of electric railways is at his service, and for a trifling sum the trolley car will carry him to Boston or any of the suburban towns. In the event a longer journey is contemplated, he can take a seat in a railway coach, palatial in its appointments, and be whirled across the continent behind a powerful steam locomotive, eating his meals and sleeping comfortably at night on the train. He enters his house after dark, turns a switch, and the whole place is flooded with electric light. The telephone enables him to converse with his friends or transact his business without leaving his office or his residence. He turns a faucet and receives a supply of pure, wholesome water in any quantity desired. A boy brings the daily newspaper to his door. His children attend school in a stately edifice, heated by steam during the winter seasons and equipped with all the modern apparatus for imparting instruction. On Sunday he worships in a church with cushioned pews and carpeted floor, and listens to the jubilant tones of a pipe organ that in many instances cost thousands of dollars.

But does he ever pause to think of the slow and tedious process by which all these comforts were developed for him to enjoy? The Puritan forefathers, when they first came to this region, found none of these things. Instead they found a wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and savage Indians—the primeval forest untouched by the ax, the soil unbroken by the plowshare. Into this wild and desolate country they came as exiles, with little capital besides their industry and determination, and began the work of building up a community whose foundations should be laid deep and secure in the principles of everlasting justice.

#### THE FIRST HOUSES

The first problem that confronted the pioneers was to provide shelter for themselves and their families. The first dwellings were log cabins, such as the settlers themselves could construct without the aid of the trained carpenter,

bricklayer or plasterer. The roofs of these cabins were covered with thatch, and in many instances the only floor was "mother earth." In some of the better cabins there was a floor of puncheons—that is, slabs of timber split as nearly the same thickness as possible, the upper surface being smoothed with an adz after the floor was laid.

A little later came the frame house. Saw mills were not introduced for several years and the first boards were made with the whip-saw. A "saw-pit" was excavated somewhere in a convenient hillside, the log to be sawed into boards was usually hewn on two sides, so that it would rest firmly upon the timbers over the pit, and on the upper hewn surface lines were struck to show the thickness of the boards required. The whip-saw was operated by two men—one standing on the top of the log to guide the saw by the lines, and the other below in the pit to pull the saw downward. It was a slow method of making lumber, but many of the first houses in the county were constructed of boards thus manufactured. Another improvement that came with the frame house was the shingle roof. The first shingles were rived or cloven with an implement called a frow, and then shaved thin at the upper end with a draw-knife. Nails and glass were the most difficult materials to obtain and in some of the houses light was admitted through oiled paper or a piece of white muslin stretched over a framework of light sticks. Brick or stone foundations were rare. The house was usually set on posts or piles and in the fall of the year earth was banked up around it to form an "underpinning" to keep out the cold. Sometimes the upper story of a house would project beyond the walls of the first story. This gave rise to the theory that they were so constructed that the settler might fire down upon Indians trying to break in at the door, but this is hardly true, when one considers that houses of that type had been constructed in England for years before the Puritans came to America.

#### HEAT AND LIGHT

In the first cabins an opening was left at one end for the great fireplace, capable of taking in logs or sticks of wood four or five feet long. The chimney was built outside the cabin. It was generally of stone, though, where stone was not convenient, it was sometimes built of sticks and plastered with clay to keep it from catching fire. When people began to build frame houses, the chimney was placed in the partition wall, in order that there might be a fireplace in each of the two principal rooms on the lower floor. In front of the fireplace was a hearth of stone or baked clay (bricks were used later), and upon this hearth, extending well back into the fireplace, was a pair of great andirons to support the blazing logs. Some of these andirons were "curiously wrought and highly ornamental." Here and there a pair has been preserved by some historical society or collector of curios, but many people of the present generation probably never saw an andiron and know nothing of the pleasures of an open fire.

For light of evenings the first settlers depended upon pine knots. Then came the "betty lamp," a round, shallow metal dish with a nose or spout about an inch long on one side. The dish was partially filled with oil or grease of some kind, into which was placed a loosely twisted strip of cotton cloth, one end of which projected through the spout. The projecting end was then lighted, and although

such a lamp emitted both smoke and odor, it gave sufficient light to enable the housewife to attend to her duties. Over the fireplace and the table were hooks, from which the lamp could be suspended.

Another lamp, called the "phebe," differed from the betty lamp only in that it was made with two dishes, the larger one being placed underneath to catch the ashes from the burning wick and the drippings of grease. Lamps of this character required a great deal of attention, as the wick had to be pushed forward as often as it burned down to the edge of the spout.

A little later came the sperm oil lamp. It was made of tin and burned a round wick, which passed through a small tube to the oil. In one side of the tube was a narrow slot, in which could be inserted a pin, needle or small wire to pull up the wick when the flame began to burn low. This lamp was regarded as a great improvement over the betty and phebe lamps.

Next came the tallow dip, which was made as follows: Several soft cotton wicks, about six inches long, were fastened at one end to a slender wand, then dipped into a kettle of molten tallow and hung up over a pan until the tallow adhering to the wick became hardened. Again and again the "dips" were immersed in hot tallow, a little more of which was added each time, until enough had accumulated to form a fair sized candle.

Then some genius invented the candle-moulds—a group of four, six, or even more, tin tubes, one end of which was slightly smaller than the other, soldered together in a frame. A wick was drawn through the center of each tube and the moulds were then filled with molten tallow. When the tallow hardened the candles were withdrawn. Often there was but one set of candle-moulds in a neighborhood, but the owner was nearly always generous enough to lend them, and they passed from house to house until all had a supply of candles laid away in a cool, dry place for future use.

Lanterns were sometimes made of horn, scraped thin enough to emit a faint light from the candle that was being placed inside. Others were made of perforated tin, the holes being small enough to prevent the wind from blowing out the candle, yet large enough to throw out a tiny ray of light. Such a lantern made everything look "as spotted as a leopard."

Matches were unknown in those days and every family kept a "tinder box" filled with scorched cotton rags. Into this "tinder" a spark was struck with flint and steel. The dry tinder was easily ignited and with a little care and skill could be coaxed into a flame. Then a betty lamp or a candle was lighted, when the box was closed and the tinder smothered until it was again needed.

#### FURNITURE AND UTENSILS

Bedsteads brought from England, or made by the first cabinet makers in this country, contained three or four times as much timber as the factory made bedsteads of more modern times. The posts were often four or even six inches square, turned in ornamental designs, and reached almost to the ceiling. There were neither slats, springs nor mattresses, such as are in use today. Cords were drawn tightly around small pins or through holes in the rails, which were almost as large as the posts. Upon this network of cords was placed the "straw-tick," on the top of which was the feather bed. Between the posts at either end were

the head and foot boards, frequently ornately carved or scrolled along the upper edge. In the better class of homes a canopy was fastened to the tops of the posts, and from the edge of this canopy curtains extended almost to the floor.

Then there was the "trundle bed," a miniature of the great "four poster" as to the manner of construction, though much smaller in its dimensions. It was occupied by the children at night and during the day was pushed back under the larger bed to economize space.

Tables and chairs were as massive in proportion as the bedsteads. Some of the chairs of colonial days, notably those of Governor Carver and John Eliot, the Indian apostle, have become historic. In the rooms of the Dedham Historical Society is preserved a chair once owned by Michael Metcalf, also Mr. Metcalf's chest, which he brought with him to Dedham in 1637. Both chair and chest are richly carved and so solidly put together that they have withstood the ravages of three centuries.

The more opulent of the pioneers ascertained the time by a "grandfather's" or "wall-sweeper" clock. These clocks were about six feet tall, with wooden wheels, and the cases were many times works of art. The weights of the clock were cylinders of tin filled with fine sand. If the clock ran too slow more sand was added to give greater impetus to the movement, and if it ran too fast some of the sand was taken out. Those who were not able to afford a clock depended upon a sun dial, or at least a "noon mark" on the sill of one of the south windows of the house.

Cooking stoves and ranges had not then made their appearance and the meals were all prepared at the fireplace. The principal cooking utensils were an iron tea-kettle, a long-handled skillet (sometimes called a spider), and a large iron pot. Fastened to one of the walls of the fireplace was a crane, upon which the pot could be suspended over the fire. Excellent bread was often baked in the spider, by placing it over a bed of hot coals and then heaping more coals on the iron lid, so that the bread would bake at both top and bottom. The large pot was used in the preparation of the "New England boiled dinner," which consisted of meat and several kinds of vegetables cooked together.

Many of the vessels and dishes—bowls, plates and spoons—were made of wood. When porcelain or earthenware dishes first came into use, many objected to them because they dulled the knives. There were also pewter porringers, teapots, etc.

Farm implements were of the most primitive type. Plows with wooden mold-boards, harrows with wooden teeth, rakes and pitchforks made of wood were in common use throughout the colony. Wheat was harvested with the old sickle, or "reaping hook," and threshed with the flail. Corn and wheat were ground in hand mills brought from England until some one with a little capital and enterprise built a dam and mill on one of the streams. Settlers often went thirty or forty miles to such a mill rather than operate the old hand mill.

#### FOOD AND CLOTHING

Not many dainties could have been found upon the tables of the early settlers. Their food was plain but wholesome—beef, pork, cornbread and beans. The early mills did not bolt the meal and it was run through a sieve to separate

the bran from the part intended for use. Game was plentiful and the family frequently enjoyed a feast of wild turkey or venison. Potatoes were not introduced until the early part of the Eighteenth Century. When they began to come into use many people thought they were poisonous. If any were left at the close of the winter they were carefully buried for fear some horse or cow might eat them and be killed. A story has been told of one man, who, when he saw the first potato, bit into it raw and then remarked that it "might be all right if allowed to stay in the ground until ripened by the frost." In some of the towns there was a by-law that no cakes, buns, or similar pastries should be served except at funerals and weddings.

The first orchards were planted with seeds brought from the mother country. When they were old enough to bear fruit a stock of apple butter was prepared in the fall for use during the winter. Cider filtered through fine sand was also put in jugs and stored until such time as it might be needed.

Everybody wore homespun clothing—woolen goods in the winter and linen in the summer. Each family had its flax-brake and hackle, and in the long winter evenings the housewife, after her regular day's work was done, would get out her spinning wheel and spin flax until time to retire. Woolen yarn was spun on a larger wheel, the operator walking back and forth as the thread was drawn out and then wound up on the spindle. Cloth was woven on the old hand loom, garments were cut and sewed by hand with the needle, and there was probably not a lass sixteen years of age in the Massachusetts Bay colony who was not able to make her own dresses, or to operate a spinning wheel. How many of the young ladies who graduated in the Norfolk County high schools in 1917 can make their own gowns?

In every settlement there was a tanyard, to which the farmer took his hides to be converted into leather. The shoemaker, or "cordwainer," did not have a fixed place of business. Each year he made his itinerary, stopping with each of his customers and boarding with the family while he made up a supply of shoes for the several members of the household. For his services he received about sixty cents a pair.

#### MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

One of the first things to be done in a new settlement was to erect a stockade for protection in case of an Indian outbreak. For many years a sentinel was kept constantly on guard against the Indians. The signal was the beating of a drum, three shots fired from a musket, a beacon fire at night, or the firing of a cannon, if the town possessed one. Any one of these signals would cause messengers to hurry to the outlying houses and warn the inmates.

Nearly every house was surrounded by old-fashioned flowers, such as hollyhocks, marigolds, larkspur, bouncing betty, sun flowers and honeysuckle, and in the gardens were cultivated a variety of plants "for physick." Thyme, sage, wormwood, spearmint, pennyroyal, tansy and various other herbs were carefully garnered against a day of sickness, for the nearest physician was often miles away.

Books were scarce and the few that found their way into a new colony were read and reread until their contents were almost known by heart. Every family had the Bible, the Catechism, Watts' Hymns and an Almanack, which consti-

tuted the principal portion of the library. As late as the middle of the Eighteenth Century there was but one newspaper in all New England, and it had only a small circulation. Pamphlets by such men as Franklin, Adams, Jefferson and Paine, treating on the political situation, were printed and circulated among the people, which helped the cause of independence.

Late in the fall of the year the Indians burned the grass and underbrush in certain tracts of woodland to drive out the game. After the white men came the cattle belonging to them would be gathered into a common herd and pastured in these burnt woods, or wherever there was a sufficient quantity of grass. These places were called "herd walks," and the common herd was in charge of a "herdsman."

Although the forefathers were believers in temperance, West India or Jamaica rum was used freely on all occasions, such as the dedication of meeting houses, funerals, in harvest time, or when the pastor visited the family, and instances are recorded where parish meetings "adjourned to the nearest inn," where liquors were served. Yet an intoxicated person was rarely seen.

Travel in early days was chiefly on horseback, as no highways were opened for the accommodation of vehicles. In front of nearly every house, at the church, and before the stores in the villages were "horse-blocks," from which one could easily mount to the saddle.

A popular superstition was that if one ate of pancakes made of rye flour on Candlemas Day he would not want for money during the year. Consequently on that day rye pancakes were served at least at one meal in nearly every household.

Wolves and wildcats infested the woods and annoyed the settlers at night with their howls and cries. The story of Little Red Riding Hood had never been told to the children of that period, but many a night the little ones cuddled more closely together in their trundle bed and shuddered with fear as the howl of a wolf was heard near the frontier dwelling. But worse than the annoyance of their howls were the depredations of these prowling beasts upon the pig-sty and the sheep-fold. Bounties for wolf scalps in Norfolk County ran as high at one time as two pounds.

## CHAPTER VI

### ORGANIZATION OF NORFOLK COUNTY

FIRST COUNTIES IN NEW ENGLAND—OLD NORFOLK COUNTY—DIVISION OF SUFFOLK—  
THE SECOND PETITION—A THIRD EFFORT—THE FOURTH PETITION—THE FIFTH  
PETITION—THE SIXTH PETITION—A LONG DELAY—UNDER THE CONSTITUTION—  
SUCCESS AT LAST—LOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT.

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In the settlement of New England, especially in Massachusetts, townships or towns were established before the counties, and for a score of years the township formed the unit of political action on all questions of public policy. In 1642 the people of New Hampshire voluntarily united with Massachusetts, and on May 10, 1643, the whole territory was divided into four counties—Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk. These were the first New England counties.

#### OLD NORFOLK COUNTY

The County of Norfolk established in 1643, and which has since become known as "Old Norfolk County," embraced the towns of Dover, Exeter, Hampton, Haverhill, Salisbury and Strawberry Bank (now Portsmouth), all lying north of the Merrimac River. The Town of Amesbury was afterward erected and added to the county. In 1679 New Hampshire was made a royal province, taking four of the towns from Norfolk County, and on February 4, 1680, the General Court of Massachusetts issued the following order:

"This Court being sensible of the great inconvenience and charge that it will be to Salisbury, Haverhill and Amesbury to continue their County Court, now some of the towns of Norfolk County are taken off, and considering that these towns did formerly belong to Essex County, and attended at Essex courts, do order that these towns that are left be again joined to Essex and attend public business at the Essex courts, there to implead and be impleaded, as occasion shall be; their records of lands being still to be kept in some one of their own towns on the north of the Merrimack, and all persons according to course of law are to attend in Essex County."

By this order "Old Norfolk County," established in 1643, passed out of existence, and the name was not revived until more than a century later, when the present Norfolk County was erected. The territory comprising the Norfolk County of the present day was included in the County of Suffolk in 1643, and remained a part of that county for one hundred and fifty years.

#### DIVISION OF SUFFOLK

The first movement for a division of Suffolk County was made early in May, 1726, when "A memorial of divers persons, representatives of ye country

towns within the County of Suffolk, praying that said towns be set apart by themselves and made a distinct county, was read in the House of Representatives of the Province," etc. (See State Archives, Court Records, vol. 13, p. 225.)

The memorial at that time presented, and in which seven towns joined, set forth the following reasons for the establishment of a new county:

"First—The hardships on the country jurymen attending a week or a fortnight together to causes they know little of by reasons of their ignorance of affairs of trade and merchandise. The allowance for the actions they try does not defray the charge of their attendance. The hardship to the parties who have actions in the courts that they are obliged to attend until the Boston cases are tried.

"Second—The vast business of the Sessions and Common Pleas coming together prolongs the court, and not about eight country causes in one hundred actions.

"Third—If the country towns were a distinct county, it is probable that four days in the year would be sufficient for the dispatch of their business, and the juries would be concerned only in titles of land.

"Fourth—The country towns are at great charge in maintaining the Boston prison.

"Fifth—The greater number of justices of the county live in Boston, and so cannot be presumed to be knowing in country affairs.

"Sixth—It is observable that the country people are at great charge in travelling to Boston for probate of wills, etc."

After this memorial was read in the house, it was ordered that the Town of Boston be served with a copy thereof, "That they may show cause (if any they have), on or before Thursday, the ninth day of June next, why the Prayer of the petitioners shall not be granted."

On May 25, 1726, the selectmen of Boston—John Baker, Nathaniel Green, Henry Dering and Timothy Prout—sent in a partial reply and asked for further time in which to prepare a full answer. They were granted until the following November. On November 26, 1726, the reply of the town, which had been prepared by the selectmen "with much skill and dexterity," was read in the House of Representatives. On the 30th the House voted in favor of granting the petition, but the next day the Council refused to concur. Thus the project to establish a new county was defeated.

#### THE SECOND PETITION

Another petition asking for a division of Suffolk County came before the House of Representatives on June 19, 1727. It was signed by W. Dudley, John Chandler, Joseph Write, Thomas Tileston, Jonathan Ware, Joseph Ellis, Samuel White, John Morse and John Brown, "in behalfe of ye Inhabitants." They also asked, in the event a new county was impracticable, "That the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and the Court of General Sessions of the Peace may be removed into the country part of Suffolk County, one to Braintree and the other to Medfield or Dedham."

No action was taken upon this petition by the General Court until the 26th of the following December, when the House of Representatives granted the

petitioners power and instructed them "to bring in a bill for constituting the country towns into a separate county," but the Council refused to concur. The following month the House of Representatives voted "That two of the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace and Superior Court of Common Pleas be kept as follows, viz., one at Braintree and the other at Dedham." Once more the Council nonconcurred, thereby manifesting a disposition to grant no favors whatever to the country towns.

In this connection it may not be amiss to offer a word of explanation regarding the attitude of the Council on the question of establishing a new county. Under the charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, the General Court was composed of the Governor, appointed by the King, the Council and the House of Representatives. The Council was at first appointed by the King, but the members of the House of Representatives were elected by the qualified voters in the respective towns. After the Court was established, the members of the Council were elected annually by joint ballot of the two branches of the Court. The councilmen, twenty-eight in number, were generally able to secure their reelection, and having first been placed in office by royal favor, they did not recognize any obligations to the people. Their refusal to recognize such obligations, or to show the common people any favors, added to the general discontent that culminated in the Revolution some years later.

#### A THIRD EFFORT

On October 2, 1730, the towns of Abington, Braintree, Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Scituate and Weymouth presented a petition asking that they be organized into a separate county. Evidently this movement was not regarded with favor by either branch of the General Court. It was laid over until the next session and on April 7, 1731, was dismissed without further consideration or ceremony.

#### THE FOURTH PETITION

The next request for the establishment of a new county came from the towns of Bellingham, Dedham, Framingham, Holliston, Medfield, Medway, Sherborn, Walpole and Wrentham in the form of a petition which was presented to the General Court on June 8, 1733. The petition respectfully asked "That said towns, and any other town adjacent, which the General Court shall think fit to join within the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex, may be erected into a separate county." The petition was referred to the next sitting of the Court, and there the matter appears to have ended, as no further record can be found.

#### THE FIFTH PETITION

In the House of Representatives, on June 19, 1735, was presented another petition "of divers towns in the County of Suffolk, praying that the county towns be set off from Boston." This petition was received and referred to the next sitting of the General Court, when Boston offered a lengthy argument, giving various reasons why the County of Suffolk should not be divided. One of these reasons was as follows:

"The more we are united, the more our judges, by the recompense now allowed them, will be able to study the law and furnish themselves still further with power agreeable to their place and duty. . . . The bigger our counties are, the more contracted will the business be, the fees and profits of the judges shared among the fewer, and the more business despatched in less time, and that continued without interruption and wasteful vacancies interposed."

The House of Representatives refused to be converted by this argument and on January 2, 1736, passed a bill granting the prayer of the petitioners and authorizing the establishment of a new county. Again the Council nonconcurring and the question lay dormant for about two years. On January 10, 1738, a bill providing for the formation of a new county by the division of Suffolk reached the third reading in the House of Representatives and was ordered to be engrossed. It was then sent to the Council, where it was "indefinitely postponed."

#### THE SIXTH PETITION

On December 30, 1740, a petition signed by a large number of the citizens of Braintree, Dedham, Dorchester, Hingham, Medfield, Milton, Needham, Roxbury, Stoughton and Wrentham came before the General Court, asking for a division of Suffolk County; that the towns above named be erected into a new county; and that Boston and Chelsea be made a separate County. The House of Representatives voted in favor of granting the petition, and, to the great astonishment of the petitioners, this time the Council concurred.

At last it looked as though the country towns were to be successful in their efforts to secure a division of Suffolk County. But the truth of the old adage, "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," was never better verified than in the fate of the petition. On January 9, 1741, a bill carrying out the intent of the petition was passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the Council. There it was read once, when further action was "indefinitely postponed," and again the movement to establish a new county met defeat.

#### A LONG DELAY

Discouraged by repeated rebuffs, the people of the country towns allowed several years to pass before making another effort to secure the division of Suffolk County. In 1760 a petition was circulated in some of the towns, but it did not meet with a hearty support and the attempt was abandoned.

Again in 1775 it was voted in some of the towns to present another petition to the General Court asking for a division of Suffolk County. Efforts were made to secure signers to such a petition, which was drawn in the names of all the towns in the county, except Boston and Chelsea, praying for the establishment of a new county to be called Hancock. A number of signers had been obtained when the battle of Lexington occurred, the war overshadowed everything else, and all thoughts of the new county were postponed until the restoration of peace.

#### UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

Nothing further in the matter of the division of Suffolk County was undertaken until after the adoption of the Massachusetts State Constitution on June

15, 1780. Under that constitution the first General Court was convened in Boston on October 25, 1780. A short time before the meeting of the Court, a number of towns in the county elected delegates to a convention to decide upon some policy relative to the division of the county. The convention met at Timothy Gay's tavern in Dedham, December 12, 1780, and adopted a resolution to the effect "That the towns of Bellingham, Dedham, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Needham, Stoughton, Stoughtonham, Walpole and Wrentham, with Holliston, Hopkinton, Natick and Sherborn, in the County of Middlesex, ought to be formed into a new county, with Medfield as the shire town."

A petition in harmony with the spirit of this resolution was circulated and was signed by a large number of the citizens in the various towns. It was presented to the House of Representatives on April 28, 1781, where it was read and referred to a committee. When the bill passed by the house came before the senate it was amended, and in the amended form failed to become a law.

On September 29, 1783, a petition from Dedham and other towns was read for the first time in the House of Representatives. Just how this petition was finally disposed of is not clear. It was referred to a committee in the house and sent to the senate for concurrence. On October 20, 1783, the senate voted to concur in the action of the house, but no new county was established.

The next move for the division of Suffolk County came on January 31, 1784, when a petition signed by Daniel Gay and others came before the senate. This petition was presented "in behalf of Dedham and certain other towns in the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex," asking for the erection of a new county. The senate ordered that notice of said petition be given to all the towns in said counties, and the house concurred with an amendment, which the senate accepted.

In May, 1784, a town meeting was held in Dedham, at which it was voted to appoint a committee to confer with the other towns in the County of Suffolk as to the expediency of dividing the county. The meeting also decided "That our representative be instructed to use his influence to secure delay on the petition for dividing the county until the sentiment of said towns can be known." Later in the month, at another meeting, it was voted to instruct the representative "to use his influence to oppose the granting of the prayer of the petition now before the General Court for dividing the County of Suffolk."

The action of the Dedham town meetings seems to have been effective in defeating the purpose of the Gay petition and preventing a division of the county for the time being. But in 1786 Dedham instructed its representative "to endeavor a division of the county whereby we may be separate from Boston, and in support of the motion you are to offer the following arguments, and such others as your ingenuity may suggest."

Then follows in detail a series of reasons for the division of the county, one of which was: "Should courts of justice be erected in some country town within the county, we expect (at least for awhile) that the wheels of law and justice would move on without the clogs and embarrassments of a numerous train of lawyers. The scenes of gaiety and amusements which are more prevalent at Boston we expect would so allure them, as that we should be rid of their perplexing officiousness."

Apparently the people of that period believed the average lawyer to be a pleasure-loving individual who cared more for "gaiety and amusement" than for

the serious business of his profession. Although the instructions to the Dedham representative were full and complete, he failed at this time to secure the desired division of Suffolk County, and the subject was permitted to rest for another five years.

On February 25, 1791, the petition of Moses Fuller and others, asking for the division of Suffolk County, was read in the House of Representatives. A few days later it was referred to a joint committee and notices sent to all the towns of the county. Remonstrances came in from Boston, Brookline, Hingham and Roxbury, but the joint committee recommended a bill for the establishment of the new county asked for by the petitioners. The report of the committee was accepted by the house on February 24, 1792, by a vote of 72 to 40, but on March 8th the senate voted not to concur.

#### SUCCESS AT LAST

Encouraged by the action of the General Court on the Fuller petition, the advocates of county division girded on their armor for the final fray. As the project was defeated in the senate, an anonymous letter was sent to all the towns suggesting that a contest be made for the election of senators who would favor the establishment of a new county. Suffolk County at that time had six senators. The election was to be held on the first Monday in April, 1792. Less than a month remained in which to make a campaign, but a man from each of the thirteen towns that had been advocating division (except Bellingham, Braintree and Medway) met at the house of John Ellis, in Dedham, and assumed authority to nominate a senatorial ticket.

Prior to this meeting, however, what was known as the "Boston Ticket" had already been named. The candidates on this ticket were: Thomas Dawes, Benjamin Austin, Oliver Wendell and James Bowdoin, of Boston; William Heath, of Roxbury; and Stephen Metcalf, of Bellingham, all of whom were supposed to be opposed to the division of Suffolk County.

The meeting at Ellis' nominated Stephen Metcalf, Lemuel Kollock, John Everett, Seth Bullard, Elijah Dunbar and Gen. Ebenezer Thayer, Jr. Dr. Nathaniel Ames, in an account of the affair, says: "But their meeting was so public, made such a bustle, and was so indiscreetly managed, that the idlers about the house talked openly of their business of choosing senators, so that it will be in the newspapers and the whole design defeated, as secrecy was the only foundation to build on."

Stephen Metcalf, being on both tickets, was elected without question. At the opening of the General Court the senate and house, in joint convention, elected all the remaining candidates on the "Boston Ticket" except James Bowdoin, for whom General Thayer was substituted.

But the "tempest in a teapot" over the election of senators had its effect. On June 12, 1792, the House of Representatives took up the Moses Fuller petition and referred it to a committee, with instructions to report as to the advisability of dividing Suffolk County. Nothing further was done until February 8, 1793, when a joint committee recommended the passage of a bill in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners. The bill was accordingly introduced, passed both house and senate on March 22, 1793, and was approved by Gov. John Hancock

on the 26th. It provided that "All the territory of the County of Suffolk, not comprehended within the towns of Boston and Chelsea, from and after the 20th day of June next, be and hereby is formed and erected into a distinct county, by the name of Norfolk, and Dedham shall be the shire town till otherwise ordered by the General Court."

Before the day came for the act to take effect, the towns of Hingham and Hull sent petitions to the General Court asking to be allowed to remain a part of Suffolk County, and on June 20, 1793, an act was passed repealing that part of the act of March 26th relating to those two towns.

As originally erected, the County of Norfolk consisted of twenty-one towns, to wit: Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Cohasset, Dedham, Dorchester, District of Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Milton, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Roxbury, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth and Wrentham.

It is not certain who is responsible for the county's name. In the bill a space was left and the name "Norfolk" was inserted just before the final passage of the measure. Geographically, the name is inappropriate. As the first settlers of Massachusetts were English people, it was natural that they should adopt many of the names of their native land. In the eastern part of England, on the shores of the North Sea, there are two counties called Norfolk and Suffolk. The inhabitants of the northern county were originally known as the "North Folk," and those of the southern were called the "South Folk." In time the names were shortened to Nor' Folk and Sou' Folk, and the counties became known as Norfolkshire and Suffolkshire. It is related that not long after Norfolk County, Massachusetts, was organized, John Randolph of Virginia walked up to John Quincy Adams in the national House of Representatives, of which both were then members, and said: "Look here, Quincy, how is this? You live in Norfolk County; now what the devil do you people in Massachusetts mean by setting off Norfolk County and putting it south of Suffolk County?"

#### LOCATING THE COUNTY SEAT

When it came to locating the county seat, or shire town, opinion was divided. Braintree, Dedham, Medfield, Milton and Roxbury were all mentioned for the honor, but none of them was satisfactory in every respect. The people of Medfield destroyed the aspirations of that town by declaring that "The practice of visiting the court room during the trial of cases would be prejudicial to habits of industry in the citizens."

On February 8, 1776, seventeen years before Norfolk County was established, the General Court passed the following act: "Whereas, Boston is now made a garrison for the ministerial army and become a common receptacle for the enemies of America, it is enacted that Dedham shall be made the shire town of the County of Suffolk for the future."

Dedham remained the shire town of Suffolk until after the evacuation of Boston by the British army, when the seat of justice was taken back to Boston. But the town having once been thus honored by the General Court seems to have given it some advantage in the contest, and it was declared to be the shire town "till otherwise ordered by the General Court." As that body has never seen fit to order otherwise, Dedham remains the shire town to the present day.

## CHAPTER VII

### PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF NORFOLK COUNTY

THE FIRST COURT-HOUSE—THE SECOND COURT-HOUSE—FATE OF THE OLD COURT-HOUSE—COURT-HOUSE OF 1861—THE PRESENT COURT-HOUSE—THE DEDICATION—COURT-HOUSE AT QUINCY—THE COUNTY JAIL—THE REGISTRY BUILDING—VALUE OF COUNTY BUILDINGS.

One of the first necessities of a new county is a suitable building in which to hold the sessions of the courts and transact the county business. The first step toward the erection of a court-house in Norfolk County was taken on January 7, 1794, when the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, then in session "in the meeting house at Dedham," on account of cold weather "to adjourn to the Sign of the Law Book" (the Ames Tavern). This brought up the subject of the court-house, and Thomas Crane, of Canton; Stephen Penniman, of Braintree; and Joseph Guild, of Dedham, were appointed a committee "to look for a proper spot of ground and report on what terms the County of Norfolk can be accommodated for their public buildings."

At a subsequent meeting of the court, the committee reported that the Episcopal Church in Dedham offered the house of worship "and the land lying common adjoining," but reserved the right "to worship therein on the Sabbath until such time as they can build another church." This resulted in the appointment of another committee, consisting of Joseph Guild, Dr. Nathaniel Ames and Elijah Adams, to solicit funds to provide the county with a public building. Anticipating that some of the citizens might prefer a new court-house to the old church, the committee was given a twofold authority: First, to raise funds to repair and remodel the church building, and second, to raise funds to build a court-house on the First Church land, near the Episcopal Church.

On June 30, 1794, the First Church of Christ in Dedham made a voluntary grant to the County of Norfolk of "the northeast corner of their lot, near the meeting house of the First Parish of said Dedham, for the situation of their court-house, together with as many suitable trees to be marked by the trustees of said church, as will be sufficient for making all the joists for the proposed court-house on said corner, as a gift to the county," etc.

At the same session of the court the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for repairing the Episcopal Church or building a court-house reported that it had been unable to raise funds for either project. The court then ordered that the offer of the First Church be accepted and that the court-house be built upon the ground thus donated. In the estimates of public expenditures for the year was included the item of six hundred pounds for a court-house. Joseph Guild,

Thomas Crane, Stephen Badlam, James Endicott and Stephen Penniman were appointed a committee to receive conveyance of the land, and "proceed to contract for and make provision of necessary materials for said court-house, as soon as may be; that they contract for the frame of said court-house on the most prudent terms for said county, of good timber, well wrought in a workmanlike manner—sills about 35 by 45 (or 50) feet, more or less, as near consistent with due proportion, according to a plan to be obtained from Mr. Bulfinch, of Boston, and other good architects, and approved by the court at their adjournment; and that they proceed to contract by the job with such persons as they, after they have advertised and received proposals of as great a number as will offer in reasonable time prefixed, shall judge and select as for the best interest of said county at large, to perform each a different part of said court-house in a workmanlike manner, according to a plan approved as aforesaid, and that said contracts be made in writing sufficiently secured."

On August 17, 1794, the Court of General Sessions voted to accept a plan—or rather a wooden model—of a court-house submitted by Isaac and Samuel Doggett, contractors of Dedham, which was presented by the committee. The contract for the erection of the building was awarded to Isaac and Samuel Doggett, and on October 28, 1794, the court, then in session in Gay's Hall, ordered: "That the court-house be erected with one end north, fronting the meeting house, the other end south, and that the committee on buildings so far deviate from the plan of the court-house first adopted as to make it nearly conformable with the plan of the Salem Court-House within, with a door at each end without."

The following spring the court made another addition to the original plan. On May 14, 1795, it was ordered: "That Thomas Crane, Hon. James Endicott and Stephen Penniman, Esq., be a committee to proceed with as great economy as may be for the county, and, by complete workmen, so far finish the court chamber that the Supreme Court may hold its next session for this county therein by the 15th of August next; and that they apply to Mr. Bulfinch, architect in Boston, for a plan of a decent cupola, or turret, to such court-house, agreeable to the rules of architecture for a building of such site, use and magnitude, and proceed in stoning, clapboarding and painting the outside, with such cupola complete, and that said committee shall be held responsible for the goodness of workmanship and materials aforesaid."

Another order of the same date was to the clerk "to draw orders on the treasury in favor of said committee for sums not exceeding the amount of three hundred pounds, to be advanced to them as they have occasion to purchase for executing the trust in them."

Just when the "last nail was driven" is not certain, but on April 26, 1796, the Court of General Sessions allotted the rooms in the court-house to the several county officers and courts. The building was two stories high, 36 by 50 feet, with a hall eight feet wide running through the center. The exterior was colonial in style, the corners ornamented with quoins and the roof surmounted by a cupola. The interior was finished with paneled wainscoting. The cost of the building cannot be ascertained. It served Norfolk County for about thirty years, when it was replaced by the

About 1820 some of the lawyers practicing in the Norfolk County courts, and others, realized that the county had outgrown its court-house and began an agitation for a new one. It was urged that the old house was too small for the proper transaction of public business; that, being entirely of wood, it was not a safe place for the public records, and that it was an "undesirable incumbrance upon the church green." Parties interested in litigation soon saw that courts were handicapped by the antiquated appointments of the old house, and the movement in favor of a new court-house gathered momentum as it went along.

On December 26, 1821, the Court of General Sessions appointed as a committee Edward H. Robbins, of Milton; Elijah Crane, of Canton; Ebenezer Seaver, of Roxbury; Thomas Greenleaf, of Quincy; and John Bates, of Bellingham, "to take into consideration, among other things, the subject of erecting a fire-proof building for the safe keeping of the records of the county." The committee reported on July 2, 1822, that the members thereof were "unanimously of the opinion that the duty of erecting a fire-proof building for the safe keeping of the records of the county, pursuant to law, is imperious, and that the same should be made of convenient size and construction as soon as practicable."

The committee also reported that two sites had been offered as a site for the new structure, and recommended that one of them be selected. One was an acre of ground adjoining the jail lot, which was offered by John Bullard, and the other was a tract of land belonging to the heirs of Fisher Ames "embracing the whole northeast end of their lot, from Hartford Road to Cross Street, so far as the extreme southeast side of the Mansion House." The Hartford Road is now High Street and the name of Cross Street has been changed to Norfolk. Mr. Bullard asked \$800 for his lot and the Ames heirs wanted \$1,200 for theirs. The latter was selected by the Court of Sessions and on May 4, 1824, Mrs. Frances Ames executed a deed conveying to Norfolk County "a parcel of land containing about one acre and a half, lying in front of her dwelling-house in Dedham, on the opposite side of the road, as a site on which it is contemplated to erect a court-house."

The land thus conveyed to the county is the site of the present court-house, and the Court of Sessions agreed that no buildings should ever be erected upon the same except those for county purposes. On the day the deed was executed, the Court of Sessions ordered John Bullard, then treasurer of Norfolk County, to give a note, as treasurer of the county, to Mrs. Ames for \$1,000, payable in five annual instalments of \$200 each, with interest, "said note being the consideration for a parcel of land conveyed by her to said county," etc.

Solomon Willard, then a resident of Quincy, was commissioned to prepare plans for a new court-house, and on November 4, 1824, the Court of Sessions ordered Treasurer Bullard to sign and execute contracts with the firm of Damon & Bates for the erection of the building, which was to be 48 by 98 feet, two stories in height, modeled in the form of "an ancient Grecian temple, with columns at both ends." The cost of the court-house and the ground upon which it was to be built was provided for by a levy of about three thousand dollars a year until the whole expense of about thirty thousand dollars was paid.

On Monday, July 4, 1825, the corner-stone was laid according to the ceremony

of the Masonic fraternity. The day being the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a number of militia companies participated in the ceremonies by forming at the Masonic Hall and escorting the Grand Lodge "through a triumphal arch to the site of the new court-house." Under the corner-stone was placed a silver plate, bearing the following inscription, engraved by Hazen Morse:

"The corner-stone of this court-house was laid with Masonic ceremonies by R. W. Thomas Tolman, Esq., acting as grand master, assisted by Constellation Lodge at Dedham, and other lodges of Free and Accepted Masons in the County of Norfolk, July 4, Anno Lucis 5825, and 49 years since the Declaration of American Independence. Norfolk County established June 20th, A. D. 1793. Building Committee: Hon. Jairus Ware, Daniel Adams, Samuel P. Loud, Judges of the Court of Sessions; Elijah Crane, sheriff; John B. Bates, master mason; Isaac Damon, master carpenter; M. W. and Hon. John Abbot, grand master; M. E. and Rev. Paul Deane, grand high priest; John Quincy Adams, President of the United States; Levi Lincoln, Governor of Massachusetts."

Deposited with this plate were, among other things, a small beaver hat of the then prevailing fashion, made by Timothy Phelps of Dedham, the newspapers of the day, Daniel Webster's address, with an account of the battle of Bunker Hill, and specimens of marbled paper manufactured by Herman Mann & Sons of Dedham.

This second court-house in Norfolk County was 48 by 98 feet, two stories in height, with a projection of ten feet at each end resting upon four Doric pillars, three feet and ten inches in diameter at the base and nearly twenty-one feet high. The granite in the walls came from a quarry about eight miles west of Dedham. It was dedicated on February 20, 1827, by Chief Justice Isaac Parker, of the Supreme Judicial Court. In his address Judge Parker gave it as his opinion that the new court-house "excelled the Worcester court-house in its material, and the Suffolk court-house in its architectural beauty."

#### FATE OF THE OLD COURT-HOUSE

On October 19, 1827, the old court-house was sold at public auction by order of the Court of General Sessions. It was purchased by Harris Munroe and Erastus Worthington and removed to the easterly side of Court Street, a short distance south of its original location. The purchasers had a hope that the building would be bought by the Town of Dedham, but in 1828 the people of the town voted to erect a town hall and the old court-house was used as a millinery shop and dwelling. In 1845 Munroe and Worthington sold it to the Temperance Hall Association, which converted the upper story into a hall for public meetings. Among the noted men who spoke in Temperance Hall were: Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Horace Mann, Abraham Lincoln, William R. Alger, Bishop Huntington and John Boyle O'Reilly. On April 28, 1891, the old court-house and some of the adjoining buildings were destroyed by fire. All that is left of Norfolk County's first temple of justice is the old bell, which is now among the relics preserved by the Dedham Historical Society. It bears the inscription: "Revere, Boston, 1790." The bell was cast by Paul Revere, whose famous ride on the

night of April 18, 1775, "Through every Middlesex village and farm," will never fade from the pages of American history.

#### COURT-HOUSE OF 1861

In 1860 it became apparent that Norfolk County was in need of more room in which to transact properly the public business. The board of county commissioners was then composed of Nathaniel F. Safford, of Milton; Lucas Pond, of Wrentham; and Charles Endicott, of Canton. These commissioners first considered the erection of a separate building, to be used by the register of deeds and the register of probate and insolvency, and a tract of land across High Street from the court-house, including the site of the old Ames Tavern, was purchased by John Gardner as a location for the new building. At a later meeting of the board it was decided that it would be more convenient to have all the county business under one roof, which could be accomplished by extending the north front and adding wings to the court-house.

This proposition met with some opposition. A remonstrance, signed by about forty representative citizens of the county, was sent in to the commissioners and published in the Dedham Gazette, but it was ignored by the commissioners, who on April 26, 1860, voted "to erect a fire-proof structure for the custody of the public records, and additional apartments for the accommodation of citizens in attendance upon the business of the court, by extending this building to meet the existing wants of the county."

The contract for the alterations and additions was awarded to Nelson Curtis and William Huston, who began on June 12, 1860. The corner-stone was relaid on September 13, 1860, without disturbing in any way the deposit placed in the corner-stone laid on July 4, 1825. By the side of the former deposit were placed the following articles: A photograph of the court-house of 1825; a drawing of the court-house showing the alterations of 1860; a list of the officers of the Court of Probate and Insolvency; a list of the county officers; the Boston Almanac, all of 1860; copies of the county newspapers; a copy of the annual report of the Town of Dedham for 1860; newspapers containing the history of the previous court-houses; a document containing the names of the architects, contractors and others concerned in the alterations then being made, and a steel pen. The first session of the Probate Court in the new office in the north wing was held on November 4, 1861, but the building was not fully completed until the following year. The cost of the alterations was about seventy-five thousand dollars.

#### THE PRESENT COURT-HOUSE

During the year 1890 the board of county commissioners authorized the expenditure of over five thousand dollars in making repairs upon the court-house. The board was then composed of George W. Wiggin, of Franklin; John Q. A. Lothrop, of Cohasset; and Melville P. Morrell, of Hyde Park, which was then one of the towns of Norfolk County. Mr. Morrell advocated another addition to the building, rather than spend any more of the county's money in what he considered "temporary makeshifts." In the fall of 1891 the question of another addition to the court-house became, in a way, a political issue. Mr. Mor-



THE COURTHOUSE, DEDHAM



rell, whose attitude on the subject was well known, was reëlected by a large majority, indicating that his views had the approbation of the citizens.

Shortly after the election, the commissioners employed the firm of Wait & Cutter, architects of Boston, to make plans for the proposed addition. On April 28, 1892, a contract was made with Lyman D. Willcutt, of Dedham, for the first stone work, and on the 25th of the following July Mr. Willcutt was awarded the contract "for the superstructure of the addition on the rear of the old court-house and changes of the court-room portions." The next day a contract was entered into with B. D. Whitcomb & Company, carpenters and builders, of Boston, to do the finishing on the new addition. Later contracts were made with Keeler & Company, of Boston, for new furniture, and with Hollings & Company, of Boston, for the gas and electric fixtures. On February 6, 1894, another contract was made with Lyman D. Willcutt & Son "for the complete alteration of the front portion of the old court-house and the dome."

The walls of the new addition were constructed of granite from the same quarry as that used in the former building and addition, that no lack of uniformity might appear. The halls, corridors and lavatories are wainscoted with marble from Tennessee and Italy, and the same kind of marble is used in the stairways. The main floor in the corridors is also of Tennessee marble. Throughout the woodwork, door and window casings, etc., is of polished quartered oak, and the furniture is of the same material. The roof of the building is of slate and that of the dome is of copper. In 1894 the Legislature authorized the county to borrow \$125,000, which sum represents approximately the cost of the new addition and the alterations in the old part of the court-house.

#### THE DEDICATION

On June 20, 1895, just one hundred and two years after Norfolk County was first organized, the remodeled court-house was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The first exercises were conducted in the court-room, beginning at 10:30 A. M. Melville P. Morrell, chairman of the board of county commissioners, called the meeting to order and, after prayer by Rev. Mark B. Taylor of Canton, made a short introductory address. He was followed by Hon. Frederick D. Ely, who delivered the historical address, in which he reviewed the progress of Norfolk County for one hundred and two years and gave a brief history of each of its court-houses. Judge Ely was followed by Chief Justice Albert Mason, of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth, who delivered the dedicatory address. The exercises at the court-house were followed by a banquet in Memorial Hall, which was attended by some four hundred persons. Thomas E. Grover acted as toastmaster, and among the responses were the following:

"The County of Norfolk," Hon. Roger Wolcott, Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts.

"Our Revolutionary Patriots," Charles Francis Adams.

"Political History of Norfolk County," Alfred D. Chandler.

"The Norfolk Bar, Past and Present," Edward Avery.

"The Superior Court," Hon. James R. Dunbar.

"Norfolk County in the Civil War," John D. Billings.

"Manufacturing Industries of Norfolk County," Elijah A. Morse.

"The Clergy, in Their Relation to Civil Government," Rev. Reuben Thomas of Brookline.

#### COURT-HOUSE AT QUINCY

Chapter 477 of the Acts of 1910 conferred upon the commissioners of Norfolk County the necessary authority "to purchase land in Quincy and construct a building for the District Court of East Norfolk." The site for the building was purchased at a cost of \$19,000, and the Legislature of 1911 passed an act "to provide for completing and furnishing the building," etc.

William Chapman, an architect of Boston, was employed to make plans, and on July 8, 1911, the contract for the erection of the court-house was awarded to William Crane of Cambridge, the contractor who built the new wing of the state house. His bid was \$59,471, but these figures did not include the heating plant, plumbing, electric wiring and some minor features. On January 10, 1912, the commissioners reported that the cost of the building up to that time was \$71,797.07. The grounds were graded and a few "finishing touches" were added after that report, so that the total cost of court-house and furnishings was about seventy-five thousand dollars.

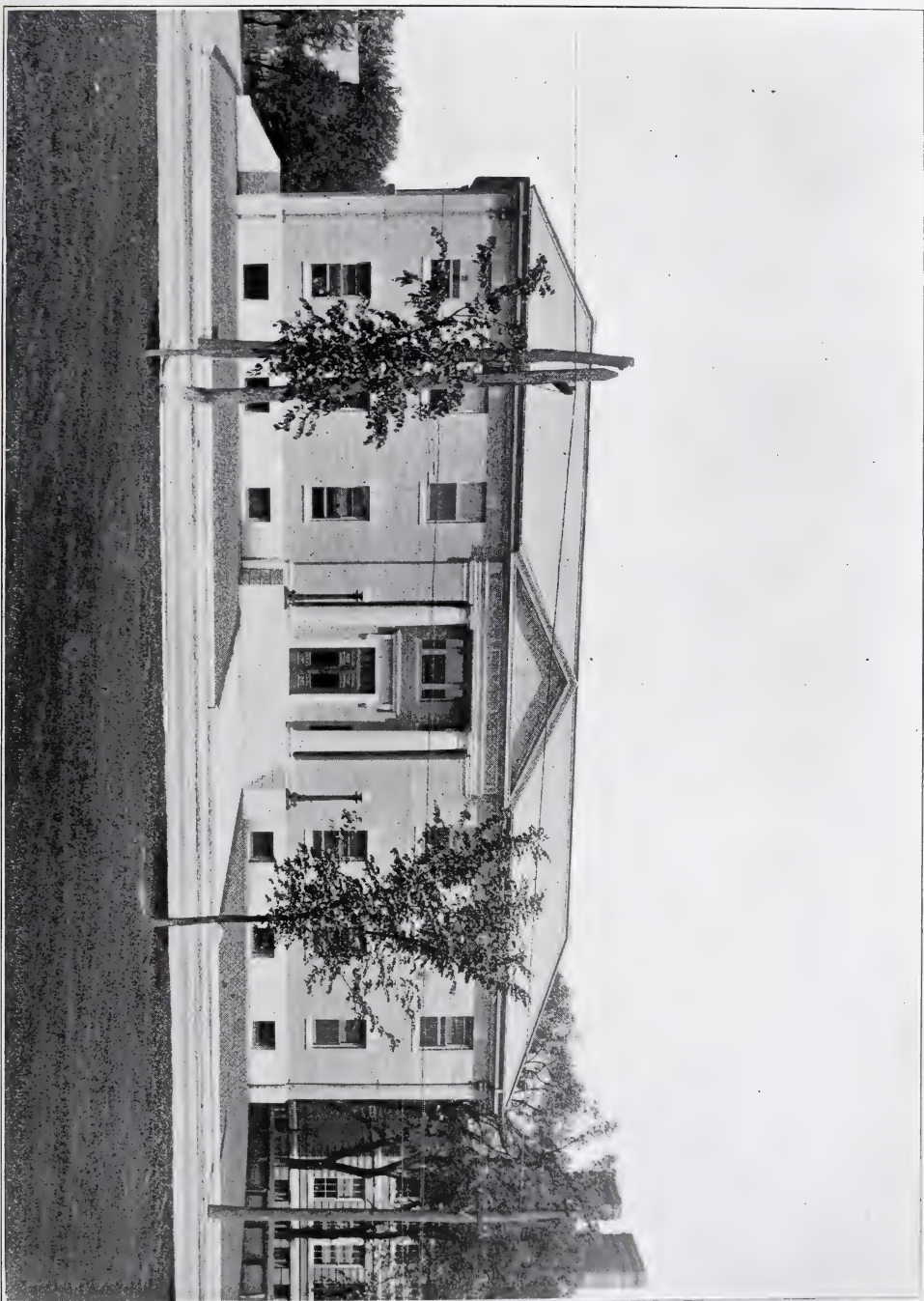
The Quincy court-house has a granite foundation and the walls of the superstructure are of light-colored brick. At the main entrance are two large granite columns that reach nearly to the top of the second story windows, supporting a pediment of simple yet graceful design. The construction of the building is fireproof throughout and its capacity is ample for the needs of the District Court of East Norfolk for years to come.

#### THE COUNTY JAIL

On August 25, 1794, the Court of General Sessions, at a session held at Gay's Tavern in Dedham, ordered: "That the committee on buildings proceed as soon as may be in collecting materials for building the jail, with the necessary irons for plating one room of the same for the security of prisoners, without being restricted to contract by the job, as for the court-house, but according to their best discretion for the benefit of the county."

On the last day of September following this order, the court accepted from Timothy Gay the gift of a lot "Bounding southerly on the Post Road from Boston to Providence, beginning ten feet west of the southwest corner of said Gay's garden near his dwelling house, thence measuring fifty-four feet southwesterly, on said Gay's land 88 feet, two sides in said Gay's land similar, so as to make a parallelogram."

In other words, the jail lot thus donated was situated on what is now Highland Street, not far from the Episcopal Church. The jail erected on that lot was a frame building and the first prisoner was incarcerated within its walls in February, 1795. It served the county as a jail until 1817, when a stone jail thirty-three feet square and two stories in height was erected upon the lot occupied by the present jail. The old wooden jail was then used until 1833 as a house of correction. It was torn down in 1833, the year after a brick house of correction was completed on the jail lot on Village Avenue.



COURTHOUSE, QUINCY



The jail built in 1817 was of hammered stone, with walls so massive that, after deducting the space for the rooms assigned to the jailer, there was but little space left for cells and stairways. The cost of this jail was \$15,000—not a profitable investment for the county, owing to the defects in arrangement mentioned above. In 1851 part of the jail and the brick house of correction were torn down to make way for the main portion of the present structure, which includes the octagon central portion and the east and west wings, in which cells were constructed. The workshop was added to the west wing in 1875, and the sheriff's residence, on the south side of the central portion, facing Village Avenue, was built in 1880.

Around the walls of the octagonal central portion are iron galleries level with the floor of each tier of cells in the wings. The total number of cells is 108. By this arrangement the turnkey, from his desk in the center, commands a view of all the corridors and can detect any mutiny or insubordination on the part of the prisoners. In this high central part two men have been executed. George C. Hersey was hanged here on August 8, 1862, and James H. Costley on June 25, 1875. An account of the crimes for which these men suffered capital punishment is given in another chapter. In scraping off the old paint on the interior of the central portion in May, 1917, preparatory to repainting, the date "1832" was exposed on the wall of the north wing, showing it to be a part of Norfolk County's second jail.

The jail kitchen in the basement is equipped with modern cooking and bread-making apparatus, the oven having a capacity of 500 pounds of bread at one baking. In the basement are also the store room and a large bathroom provided with a dozen porcelain lined bathtubs. Every prisoner is required to take a bath upon entering and at regular stated intervals during his imprisonment. The entire building is heated by steam and special attention is given to the sanitary conditions. In the county treasurer's report for the year 1916 the value of the jail building and lot is given at \$333,500.

#### THE REGISTRY BUILDING

Opposite the court-house on High Street stands the Registry Building, which was erected under the provisions of the act of May 12, 1903, authorizing the county commissioners to expend the sum of \$280,000 for that purpose. A previous act had authorized the expenditure of \$200,000. After the passage of the supplementary act, adding \$80,000 to the building fund, the firm of Peabody & Stearns, architects of Boston, were employed to make plans and specifications. Three bids were opened on July 7, 1903, and on the 14th the contract was awarded to McNeil Brothers of Boston, their bid being \$256,506.

The main section of the building is 52 by 186 feet, two stories high, and in the rear there is a one-story projection 68 by 80 feet. There is a basement under the entire building, in which is located the heating plant, etc. The front and end walls of the main portion are faced with Deer Isle granite, and the rear part is of gray Pompeian brick. The main entrance is marked by two granite columns of the Corinthian order, extending to the top of the second story windows, surmounted by a pediment of classic proportions. The floors are mosaic, the roof of copper, and the furniture of steel, so that the entire structure

is as nearly fireproof as human ingenuity can devise. The building was completed and occupied on September 1, 1905. Its total cost was \$278,197.97.

#### VALUE OF COUNTY BUILDINGS

On page 34 of the county commissioners' report for the year 1916, the value of the public buildings of Norfolk County, including the grounds is given as follows:

Court-House .....	\$ 402,000
Jail .....	333,500
Registry Building .....	298,000
District Court-House at Quincy.....	100,000
Training School at Walpole.....	21,500
Agricultural School .....	75,000
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$1,230,000

In this table there is a small cash balance included in the value of the Agricultural School. That institution and the Training School at Walpole are educational in their nature and their history is therefore given in the chapter on Education.



REGISTRY OF DEEDS BUILDING, DEDHAM



## CHAPTER VIII

### THE NEW ENGLAND TOWNSHIP

TWO KINDS OF TOWNSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES—THE DIFFERENCE—THE ANGLO-SAXON TUNSCIPLE—ORIGIN OF THE TOWNSHIP—PATENTS ISSUED BY THE PLYMOUTH COMPANY—FIRST TOWN MEETINGS IN NEW ENGLAND—THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE REVOLUTION—JEFFERSON ON THE TOWNSHIP FORM OF GOVERNMENT—TOWNSHIPS OF THE SOUTH AND WEST COMPARED WITH NEW ENGLAND—IN STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Townships in the United States are of two kinds—civil and congressional. The congressional township did not come into existence until after the passage of the "land ordinance" by Congress in 1785, and is therefore unknown in New England. It is always six miles square, bounded by township and range lines, and is divided into thirty-six sections, each one mile square, for convenience in measuring, describing and conveying land. In the western states, where the public domain was surveyed under the new system, the civil and congressional township are often identical. In the older states the civil townships vary in size and shape, their boundaries in many instances being formed by natural features, such as streams, ranges of hills, etc., or by "direct lines" between two given points. The civil township also differs from the congressional in that it is a political subdivision, possessing officers and powers for local government.

In England, during the reign of King Alfred, a minor political division called the "tunscepe" was established. It equaled as an ecclesiastical unit the parish, and as a political unit was governed by a popular assembly called the "tun moot," a term which in later English was developed into "town meeting," the oldest form of government known to man. Far back in the history of the human race, a few families, usually related to each other, would form a "clan" and in a mass meeting make rules for the regulation of their affairs. The principle was carried down to Rome in the meetings held in the forum, and in Greece the assemblages of the populace in the agora for the discussion and settlement of questions pertaining to the general welfare. Among the Germans and Scandinavians, the same principle is seen in the government of the minor political division called the "mark."

Under the Great Patent to the Plymouth Company, November 3, 1620, provision was made for issuing two kinds of patents to occupants of lands. First, for private proprietors of small plantations, who were to have certain lands at a specified annual rental, which lands they were not to abandon without permission, and who obligated themselves to settle a given number of persons within a stipulated time. Second, for "such parties as proposed to build towns, with large numbers of people, having a government of their own, with magistrates who

were to have power to frame such laws and constitutions as the majority should think fit, subordinate to the state which was to be established, until other order shall be taken."

The first settlers of Massachusetts were dissenters from the Church of England, whose greatest desire was to bring about a reform in church affairs so that the congregation should have more power in church government, and the minister should be more independent than formerly of the bishop. It was therefore natural that they should come in congregations, led or accompanied by their pastors, and that they should settle in a body. These church congregations obtained grants or patents, according to the second plan above mentioned, and set up a local government similar to that of the "tunsceipe" of King Alfred's time, with the "town" and the "parish" practically the same. Says Forman: "Their town meetings were at first religious assemblages acting as pure democracies, except in Rhode Island, where the civil authority did not interfere in matters of conscience. The meetings in the colonies where the theocratic principle prevailed were usually held in a church, and all the male church members of the town who were of age could attend, take part in the discussions, and vote upon any question that might arise."

Thus the early settlers of New England came to live in compact communities, which later took the name of townships or towns. They were generally people of a high degree of intelligence, almost equal in social rank and worldly goods, hence they were democratic in their ideas of government and unanimous in the belief that "authority in spiritual and temporal matters should flow from the same source."

For some time after the first settlements were established town meetings were held frequently. The records show that the Town of Boston held ten town meetings in the year 1635. As the number of farms increased and the settlement spread over a wider territory, officers were elected to manage the town's business between meetings, until many of the townships came to hold meetings but once a year, unless some unexpected occasion arose which might require a special meeting. The principal officers are the board of selectmen, clerk, treasurer and board of assessors. In early days there was a tithing-man, a sort of "Sunday constable," whose business it was to see that everybody attended church, and to keep them awake during the services; a hog reeve, who was required to see that all hogs running at large had rings in their noses; a field driver, who impounded stray animals; and overseers of the poor. Some of these offices are still in existence, but the duties of their incumbents are not so arduous as in the old colonial days. The early town meeting overlooked nothing. It prescribed how the school-master should use the rod upon unruly pupils, fixed the rate of taxation, designated the hours that men should labor, appropriated funds for schools and highways, etc. Most of this business is now transacted by the board of selectmen.

Beginning with the first settlements, the town system grew with New England and the town meeting soon became deeply rooted in the minds of the citizens. During the Revolution and the years immediately preceding it, the town meeting was the distinguishing feature of New England life. When the war began these little democratic communities proved to be the most powerful aids to the cause of liberty. In the town meeting it was easy to determine who was the patriot and who was the tory. Through their work military stores were provided, the cele-

brated "minute men" were organized, and the resolutions of many of the town meetings expressed in no uncertain language the sentiment of the people that afterward found utterance in the Declaration of Independence.

And their influence did not end with the Revolution. On December 22, 1807, Congress passed what was known as the "Embargo Act," to prohibit trade with England. Town meeting after town meeting in New England passed resolutions denouncing the act, which led President Jefferson to say afterward: "How powerfully did we feel the energy of this organization (the town) in the case of the Embargo. I felt the foundations of government shaken under my feet by the New England townships. There was not an individual in their states, whose body was not thrown with all its momentum into action, and although the whole of the other states was known to be in favor of the measure, yet the organization of this selfish community enabled it to overrule the Union."

While this may sound like a criticism of the town meeting and the manner in which New England defeated the purposes of the Embargo Act, it does not express Mr. Jefferson's real sentiments as to the value and importance of the New England form of government. When his own State of Virginia adopted the county as the chief political unit, Mr. Jefferson advocated the division of the counties into townships, and in referring to the New England system said: "Those wards, called townships in New England, are the vital principle of their governments and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and for its preservation."

Most of the southern states followed the example of Virginia and adopted the county system, with the result that in those states the civil township is little more than a name. In the West the two systems are combined. Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and those counties in Nebraska and Illinois that have adopted township organization, hold town meetings very similar to those of New England. In other states of the Middle West questions of incurring indebtedness for public improvements are submitted to the voters of the township at a general election instead of at a town meeting, though the principle is the same in general effect.

When the first grants were made to church congregations or companies of immigrants, the thickly settled portion of the grant was known as the "town" and the outlying, uninhabited portion as the "township." In time, as settlement was extended to these outlying lands, the last syllable was dropped and the name "town" was adopted for the entire district. The towns were incorporated by the colonial legislature, which was the only authority with power to create new towns, and this system has been in operation in Massachusetts for nearly three centuries. As a matter of experience, local government in New England has undergone some changes with the constantly changing conditions. Thickly settled parts of the towns in some of the New England states have in many cases been incorporated as villages or boroughs, the people surrendering a portion of the business to municipal authorities or agents, though in Massachusetts the town meeting is still the chief source of power in the adjustment of local public affairs.

Not only has the township been the dominant force in local government, but it has also been an important factor in shaping the destinies of the state and nation. In the old Anglo-Saxon "tunscepe" the principal officer—the "tun reeve"—the parish priest and "four discreet laymen" were delegates to the "shire moot" or county meeting, at which the views of the people regarding county affairs were

ascertained through their chosen representatives. This system was extended by the Parliaments of 1265 and 1295, concerning which Fiske says: "These dates have as much interest for Americans as for Englishmen, because they mark the first definitive establishment of that grand system of representative government which we are still carrying on at our various state capitals and at Washington. For its humble beginnings we have to look back to the 'reeve and four' of the ancient townships to the county meetings."

In the early history of New England the township was not only the dominant force in questions of a local nature, as a self-governing body politic, but it was also the unit of representation in the colonial legislature or General Court. In modern times the unit of representation has been modified to some extent, but in many localities the township forms the basis of representation in the conventions of political parties, thus the township, besides managing its own affairs, wields an influence upon state and national politics.

In Norfolk County there are twenty-eight towns, to wit: Avon, Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Holbrook, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Milton, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Quincy, Randolph, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, Weymouth and Wrentham. A history of each of these towns is given in the succeeding chapters.

## CHAPTER IX

### THE TOWN OF AVON

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—PETITION FOR INCORPORATION—IN THE LEGISLATURE—EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES—WATERWORKS—TOWN HALL—MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT AVON.

The territory comprising the Town of Avon was originally included in that part of Dorchester known as the "New Grant." When Stoughton was incorporated on December 22, 1726, it embraced the present Town of Avon and exercised jurisdiction over it for nearly one hundred and sixty-two years, hence the early history of Avon is given in the chapter on Stoughton. The town is located in the southern part of the county, being bounded on the north and west by Stoughton; on the east by Randolph and Holbrook, and on the south by Plymouth County.

#### PETITION FOR INCORPORATION

On December 2, 1887, the following petition was published in the Stoughton Record, the result of a movement started some months prior to that time for the establishment of a new town:

"To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

"The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Stoughton, Norfolk County, respectfully represent that we desire all that part of Stoughton east of the following described lines to be incorporated into a town separate from Stoughton, to be called ———. Said lines to be the Old Colony Railroad commencing at the southerly line of the Town of Randolph and running southwesterly to a point where the Boston & Taunton Turnpike, so called, crosses said Old Colony Railroad, and from thence the Boston & Taunton Turnpike to be the line to the City of Brockton."

This petition was signed by D. H. Blanchard, Hiram Blanchard, Alva M. Butler, Charles H. Felker, D. C. G. Field, S. S. Gifford, James Keith, G. F. Littlefield, L. G. Littlefield, Gilbert Littlefield, George W. Robbins, George J. Smith and H. H. Tucker.

#### IN THE LEGISLATURE

This petition came before the House of Representatives on February 1, 1888, and was referred to the committee on towns, which reported favorably, and a bill granting the prayer of the petitioners was passed and sent to the senate.

It passed that body and was approved on February 21, 1888. Section 1 of the bill reads as follows:

"All that territory now the Town of Stoughton, in the County of Norfolk, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at a point on the easterly line of Stoughton, where the Old Colony Railroad crosses said easterly line; thence southwesterly along the westerly side of the Old Colony Railroad about four hundred and sixty rods to a point on the westerly side of the culvert where Saulisbury Brook passes under said railroad; thence in a straight line south about five hundred and thirty-two rods to the westerly side of Oak Street, where it intersects South Street; thence southerly again along the westerly side of Oak Street about seventy-five rods to the Brockton line; thence along said Brockton line about six hundred and eighty-seven and one-half rods to the Holbrook line; thence in a straight line northerly about eight hundred and ninety-four rods along the Holbrook line and the Randolph line to the point of beginning, is hereby incorporated as a town by the name of Avon, and said Town of Avon is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and made subject to all the duties, liabilities and requisitions to which other towns are entitled or subjected by the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth."

Sections 2 to 6 inclusive refer to the division of the town property, apportioning the town debt, relief of paupers, etc. Section 7 places the new town in the Second Congressional District, the Second Councillor District, the Second Norfolk Senatorial District and the Seventh Norfolk Representative District.

Section 8 provides that "any justice of the peace in the County of Norfolk may issue his warrant directed to any inhabitant of the Town of Avon requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the time and place therein appointed for the purpose of choosing all such town officers as towns are by law authorized and required to choose at their annual meetings," etc.

#### EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES

Soon after the town was organized under the provisions of the above act, an agitation was commenced for the acquisition of certain tracts of land in the towns of Randolph and Holbrook. A petition asking for the annexation of these lands to Avon was presented to the next session of the Legislature, with the result that the following act was passed and approved on April 16, 1889:

"So much of the towns of Randolph and Holbrook, in the County of Norfolk, with all the inhabitants and estates thereon, as is thus bounded and described, to wit: Beginning at a stone bound on the westerly side of Main Street in the boundary line between said towns of Randolph and Avon (formerly Stoughton) marked 'R' on one side and 'S' on the opposite side, and thence running in a straight line over territorial land of said Randolph and of said Holbrook midway between the two main tracks of the Old Colony Railroad as now existing and distant north, sixteen degrees and fifteen minutes east, six hundred and ninety-four and eight-tenths feet from the southerly side line of High Street in said Holbrook; thence running south, sixteen degrees and fifteen minutes west, midway between said tracks, one thousand five hundred and sixteen and four-tenths

feet to a point of curvature in said Holbrook and intersecting said southerly line of High Street at a point distant south, fifty-six degrees and thirteen minutes east, one hundred and sixty-seven and seventy-two hundredths feet from a stone bound set in the southerly line of High Street; thence running by a curve to the left of five thousand seven hundred and thirty feet radius, one thousand three hundred and twenty-three and forty-five hundredths feet to a point of tangency in Holbrook; thence running midway between said tracks south, three degrees and one minute west, five hundred and thirty-five and forty-five hundredths feet to the boundary line between said towns of Holbrook and Avon; thence running northwesterly by said boundary line between the towns of Randolph, Holbrook and Avon to the point of beginning, containing an area of about fourteen acres of the territory of the said Town of Randolph and about one hundred and thirty acres of the territory of the said Town of Holbrook, is hereby set off and separated from the said towns of Randolph and Holbrook and annexed to the said Town of Avon."

The reason for this enlargement of the town was to give it access to railway facilities. The Old Colony Railroad mentioned in the above act is now the Boston & Middleboro division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system, which covers a large part of New England. Avon station was established soon after the boundary of the town was extended to the railroad.

#### WATERWORKS

Soon after the town was incorporated a movement was inaugurated to establish a system of waterworks. A petition was presented to the Legislature asking for authority to issue bonds for that purpose and on April 9, 1889, the governor approved an act empowering the Town of Avon "to supply itself and its inhabitants with water for the extinguishment of fires and for domestic and other purposes," etc., and to take "by purchase or otherwise and hold the waters of Porter's Brook or spring in said town." The act also authorized the town to borrow not more than thirty thousand dollars, issue bonds therefore and provide a sinking fund for their redemption when due, said act to take effect upon its acceptance "by a two-thirds vote of the voters of said Town of Avon at a legal town meeting within three years after its passage."

The conditions imposed by the act were accepted by the required two-thirds vote, Lewis Hawes of Boston was employed as chief engineer, and the waterworks were constructed in 1889-90. Wells were sunk to obtain a supply of water and a pumping station was installed. The standpipe, twenty feet in diameter and ninety feet high, was built by E. Hodge & Company of Boston. It has a capacity of 212,670 gallons and the average pressure of the system is sixty-five pounds to the square inch. Up to December 31, 1912, the total cost of the plant was \$83,324.09 and the aggregate amount of bonds issued was \$60,500. There were then eight miles of mains. Since that time some extensions have been made and the bonds have nearly all been paid. The works are owned by the town.

#### TOWN HALL

On October 18, 1912, the town hall was damaged by fire to the amount of \$1,500 and the contents to the amount of \$1,500. The building was erected a few

years after the incorporation of the town at a cost of about three thousand dollars. It contains a hall for holding town meetings, offices for the town officials and quarters for the fire company. At the time of the fire the town carried \$2,000 insurance on the building and \$1,200 on the contents. The damage to the building was quickly repaired, but the loss of records renders it impossible to ascertain the original cost or just when the structure was completed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT AVON

Avon is the smallest town in Norfolk County. It is an agricultural community and has no manufacturing establishments of importance. In addition to the transportation facilities furnished by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, the Milton & Brockton division of the Bay State Street Railway Company traverses the town, connecting it with practically all the principal places in Norfolk County. Cars run on this line every thirty minutes.

The first board of selectmen was composed of Hiram Blanchard, George W. Robbins and Bartlett Collins, who also served as the first town assessors. George J. Smith was the first town clerk, and James Keith the first treasurer. In 1917 the town officers were as follows: John F. Geary, Frederick P. Bodwell and Frederick A. Parmenter, selectmen; John J. Collins, clerk; William W. Littlefield, treasurer; John F. Geary, Frederick A. Parmenter and Fred P. Whitten, assessors.

In the principal square stands a neat monument of granite bearing the inscription:

In Grateful Remembrance  
of the men  
of Avon  
Who fought to  
Save the Union  
1861-1865

Above the inscription are two crossed swords carved in bas relief, and on the top of the monument is the figure of an infantry soldier. Avon was a part of Stoughton at the time of the Civil War, but the monument commemorates the gallant deeds of those who went from that part of Stoughton now comprising Avon. On the die of the monument is the following:

Presented by  
Orlando Leach  
To the Town of Avon  
MDCCCCV

In the southeastern part of the town is Highland Park, one of the beauty spots of Norfolk County. It is on the electric railway line running from Avon to Brockton and is a favorite resort for persons who desire a day's outing amid peaceful surroundings.

On the covers of the annual town reports is a small portrait of William Shakespeare, indicating that the town derives its name from the birthplace of the im-

mortal bard—"Stratford-on-Avon" in England. The Avon of today has two modern public school buildings, a well drilled and equipped fire company, a public library, Baptist and Catholic churches, and a number of cozy homes. The population in 1910 was 2,013 and in 1915, according to the state census, it was 2,164, an increase of 151 in five years. The assessed valuation of property in 1915 was \$1,119,847.

## CHAPTER X

### THE TOWN OF BELLINGHAM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN—FIRST SETTLEMENT—DIVIDING THE LAND—INCORPORATION—FIRST TOWN MEETING—A BOUNDARY DISPUTE—TROUBLE WITH THE GENERAL COURT—A COINCIDENCE—NEW STATE GOVERNMENT—EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW TOWN—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—VITAL STATISTICS—ODD LEGISLATION—THE BELLINGHAM OF TODAY.

Bellingham is the most western town of Norfolk County. It is bounded on the north by the Town of Medway; on the east by Franklin and Wrentham; on the south by the State of Rhode Island; and on the west by Worcester County. The surface is generally uneven, though there are no large elevations in the town. The Charles River flows across the northern part, the Peters River rises near the center and flows in a southerly direction into Rhode Island. Its principal tributary is the Bungay Brook, which rises in Wrentham. North of the Charles River and connected with it by a small stream is Beaver Pond, and in the southern part is another pond of considerable size called Jenks' Reservoir. There are also a few smaller ponds drained by the Peters River.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT

From the best authority at hand, it is believed that the first white man to locate within the limits of the present Town of Bellingham was Jacob Bartlett. Following the custom of the time, Mr. Bartlett selected a tract of land some time in the summer of 1713 and erected a cabin, to which he moved his family. Land was then plentiful and such a thing as acquiring it by purchase was almost unknown. On October 27, 1713, the proprietors of the Town of Dedham, of which the territory was then a part, granted thirty-five acres to Jacob Bartlett. This grant is the first official mention in the records of the region now included within the town limits of Bellingham.

During the fall of 1713 and the following winter, several families settled near the Charles River. That no confusion should arise regarding the possession of the land, a crown warrant was issued early in February, 1714, the return upon which was as follows:

"In pursuance of a warrant to me directed by John Chandler, Esq., one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, these are to give public notice that a meeting of the proprietors of that tract of land belonging to Dedham lying between Wrentham, Mendon and Providence is appointed to be held and kept at the house of Deacon Thomas Sanford, in Mendon, on the eleventh day of March next ensuing, at eight o'clock in the morning, then and

then to agree upon a division of land and what relates thereunto, of which all persons concerned are to take notice and give attendance accordingly. Dated this twenty-fifth day of February, A.D., 1714.

“JONATHAN WIGHT, Constable.”

Between the time the warrant was issued and the day of the meeting, the land was divided into lots or parcels containing from twenty to sixty acres each. On the appointed day the residents in that part of the present County of Norfolk assembled at Mr. Sanford's house and the meeting was organized by the election of John Ware of Wrentham, moderator, and Thomas Sanford, clerk. Slips of paper were prepared, each bearing the number of a certain lot of land, and the slips were then placed in a box and thoroughly mixed. Each settler then drew a slip, which entitled him to the tract of land bearing the same number. The highest number was 121, indicating that there were then that number of actual or prospective settlers in the district.

#### INCORPORATION

The five years immediately following the distribution of land witnessed the influx of quite a number of new settlers. In the summer of 1719, owing to the great distance from Dedham, where the inhabitants had to go to attend church and transact their business with the town authorities, a movement was started for the establishment of a new town. A petition was accordingly prepared, addressed to “His Excellency Samuel Shute, Esq., Captain-General and Governor in Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, and to the Honourable Council and House of Representatives in General Court convened at Boston.”

After setting forth in detail the reasons for asking that a new town be created, the inconveniences to which the inhabitants of the territory was subjected, etc., the petition closed as follows:

“Our Prayer Therefore is that your Honours would Graciously please to consider our Difficulty Circumstances and grant us our petition, which is That ye above mentioned Tracts of Land (as by one Platt heretofore affixed & Described) may be incorporated together & made a Town & Invested with Town Preveliges. That we may be Inabled in Convenient Time to obtain ye Gospel & Public Worship of God settled, & our Inconveniencies by Reason of our Remoateness be Removed; granting us such Time of Dispencc from Public Taxes as in wisdom you shall think Convenient, & in your so doing you will greatly oblige us who am your Humble petitioners: and for your Honours, as in Conscience we are Bound, Shall ever pray.

“Dated ye 17th Day of November, 1719.”

The petition was signed by Richard Blood, Thomas Burch, Nicholas Cook, Nicholas Cook, Jr., Seth Cook, Daniel Corbet, John Corbet, Cornelius Darling, John Darling, Samuel Darling, Zuriel Hall, Jonathan Hayward, Oliver Hayward, Samuel Hayward, William Hayward, Eliphalet Holbrook, John Holbrook, Joseph Holbrook, Peter Holbrook, Inheritance of Mendon, John March, Samuel Rich, James Smith, Pelatiah Smith, Samuel Smith, Ebenezer Thayer, Isaac Thayer, Ebenezer Thompson, John Thompson, John Thompson, Jr., Joseph Thompson, Samuel Thompson and Nathaniel Weatherby.

The plat submitted with the petition showed "a Tract of Land belonging to Dedham, westward of Wrentham, and a small Corner of Mendon adjacent Thereto." On November 26, 1719, the petition was read in the lower house of the General Court and that body "Ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that a township be erected and constituted according thereunto and the plat above: Provided they procure and settled a learned orthodox minister within the space of three years now coming."

It was further enacted that "John Darling, John Thompson and John Marsh be Impowered to call a Town Meeting any time in March next to choose Town Officers & manage ye other prudentiall affairs of ye Town. The name of the Town to be called Bellingham." The upper house concurred in this action the next day, so that the Town of Bellingham dates its corporate existence from November 27, 1719. The name was no doubt chosen as a mark of respect for Sir Richard Bellingham, who was one of the early colonial governors of Massachusetts.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

The commissioners named in the act of incorporation—Darling, Thompson and Marsh—issued a call for a town meeting to be held at the house of John Thompson on March 2, 1720. Pelatiah Smith was chosen moderator, and the following town officers were elected: Selectmen, John Darling, Pelatiah Smith, John Thompson, John Corbett and Nathaniel Jilson; Clerk, Pelatiah Smith; Treasurer, John Holbrook; Tithingmen, John Marsh and Nicholas Cook; Constables, Nicholas Cook and William Hayward; Hog reeves, "for the due observance of swine," Oliver Hayward and Samuel Darling.

Bellingham did not actually obtain a corporate charter by the act of November 27, 1719, but the people were authorized to form a town government which should become fully operative if they established a church and installed a minister within three years. This provision came before the first town meeting. John Darling, Nicholas Cook, Sr., John Corbet and John Holbrook were appointed a committee to select a location for the meeting house, and another committee, consisting of Nathaniel Jilson, Nicholas Cook, John Corbet and Pelatiah Smith was appointed to build the house, "so far as the covering and inclosing are concerned."

On November 14, 1720, the committee on location reported at a town meeting held at the house of John Thompson—"That the meeting house should be sett whare thare is a Stake standing near Weatherly's corner, with a heap of stones Laid about said Stake and a pine tree marked; said Stake Standing in an old Road that goes from Mendon to Wrentham, the Demension of the meeting house to be: fourty foott long thirty foott wide, Eighteen foott Between Joynts. The Stated price for Laborers for a Narrow axx man finding himself tow shillings and a sixpence per day, Broad axx man three shillings pr day, finding themselves."

The location thus selected for the meeting house is a short distance north of the Charles River, near the site of the village of Crimpville, which afterward grew up there. The building was evidently inclosed some time in the summer or early fall of 1721, for on November, 23, 1721, a town meeting voted that the meeting house should be lathed and plastered with white lime and that an aisle

four feet wide should be left through the center and aisles four feet wide between the ends of the seats and the sides of the building. In January, 1723, the town voted to give fifty acres of land to the first minister who would settle in the town and not long afterward Rev. Thomas Smith accepted the offer and entered upon his duties as pastor of the church. Bellingham then became fully incorporated according to the provision of the act, though a little more than three years elapsed before a regular minister was settled.

#### A BOUNDARY DISPUTE

In 1723 a difference of opinion arose between the people of Bellingham and those of Wrentham as to the actual location of the boundary line dividing the two towns, and some ill feeling was developed before the question was finally settled. Bellingham appointed a committee to carry the matter before the court, and a tax was levied upon the cattle of the town to defray the expenses. A little later the town sold one hundred and fifty acres of common land, for which the sum of one hundred and forty pounds was obtained, practically all of which was expended in making a survey and securing the establishment of the line as it stands at the present time.

#### TROUBLE WITH THE GENERAL COURT

So far as can be gleaned from the records, the first call for a member of the General Court was made on Bellingham in 1755, but the town meeting voted not to send a representative, on the grounds that the people could not afford the expense. The General Court appears to have been incensed at the action of the meeting and fined the town for its disobedience of orders. When the people of Bellingham learned of the fine another town meeting was called, but the only action taken was to petition the General Court for an abatement of the fine and voted the sum of two pounds and ten shillings to defray the expense of carrying the petition to the Court. At the same meeting it was decided to assess the soldiers who enlisted in the King's service and the people pledged themselves to stand by the assessors in levying a tax on said soldiers. It is not shown by the records that the tax was ever collected and the assessment probably was a "dead letter."

Early in the year 1757 the General Court again made a demand on Bellingham for a representative, but at the May meeting the town again "voted in the negative" and no representative. No fine was imposed upon the town in this instance, but when in April, 1761, Bellingham again voted not to send a representative a small fine was levied against the town. A year later another demand was made for a delegate, but the town meeting declined "by a large vote."

Although refusing to send a representative to the General Court, the people of Bellingham recognized the authority of that body and cheerfully endeavored to observe the laws. At least in one instance they called upon the Court to settle a local dispute. At a town meeting held on March 6, 1764, officers for the ensuing year were elected. Nine days later another meeting (or an adjourned meeting) undertook to annul the action of the former one and elected another set of officers. Nineteen citizens signed a protest against this second election and sent it up to the General Court, with their reasons therefor. The Legislature

decided that the election of March 6th was legal and the subsequent action of the adjourned meeting null and void, "much to the satisfaction of the officers first chosen."

At the March meeting in 1773, "the condition of the country being in an unsettled state, and the town being greatly inconvenienced by the excessive taxation, a committee consisting of John Metcalf, John Corbett, Samuel Scott, William Holbrook and Benjamin Partridge was chosen to look into the condition of affairs and report at the next meeting." If the committee ever reported it was not made a matter of record.

About this time, the town being so negligent about sending a representative to the General Court, another fine was imposed and a petition of abatement was sent as payment. It seems that none of the fines had ever been paid and the town had been at some expense in the matter of petitioning for their remission. In the case just mentioned, the Legislature gave no immediate attention to the petition and the town records that on October 22, 1773, when the question came before a town meeting it was "Put to vote to see if the town will send to Court any more to get the fines off that we are fined for not sending a Representative in years passed. Decided in the negative."

At the beginning of the year 1774 the colonies were almost in a state of revolution against the excessive taxation levied by the mother country. In May of that year the people of Bellingham voted to send a committee to the General Court to explain their poverty and ask that the town be assessed for a less amount, as well as that the fines imposed upon them for their failure to send a representative be remitted. This committee met with better success than its predecessors and the fines were abated, restoring good feeling between the Bellingham people and the colonial authorities. On September 2, 1774, a town meeting voted "the sum of nineteen shillings to the General Court, to assist in carrying on expenses." At the same meeting it was agreed that the citizens of the town would purchase no goods imported from England, and the sum of five pounds was voted for ammunition.

On September 30, 1774, Luke Holbrook was elected as Bellingham's "first delegate" to attend the Provincial Congress at Concord on the second Tuesday of the following month. Seven pounds additional were voted on December 19, 1774, "for the purchase of powder and bullets." The action of the people of Bellingham for the purchase of ammunition and the boycott of English goods shows clearly where their sympathies lay in the difference of opinion between the American colonies and the mother country, and from this time forward there was no controversy with the Massachusetts General Court.

#### A COINCIDENCE

On July 4, 1776, a town meeting was held in Bellingham for the purpose of discussing general conditions and determining upon a definite course to be followed in case of a rupture between the British Government and the English colonies in America. Almost at the same hour that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, the Bellingham town meeting declared: "That in case the Honorable Continental Congress shall think it necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them independent of Great

Britain, the inhabitants of this town, with their lives and fortunes, will cheerfully support them in the measure."

And the declaration was no idle boast. When the news of Lexington and Concord reached the little town in the southwest corner of what is now Norfolk County (then a part of Suffolk), the people of Bellingham were ready. Out of her meager population ninety-three men served in the Continental army during the Revolution and fought to achieve their independence.

#### NEW STATE GOVERNMENT

On September 17, 1776, the General Court sent to the several towns in the state a communication asking opinions regarding the formation of a new state government, with such suggestions as the people felt inclined to submit. Bellingham was not at all backward about expressing her ideas on the subject. At a town meeting held on October 20, 1776, Dr. John Corbett, Coroner John Metcalf, Elder Noah Alden, Deacon Samuel Darling and Lieut. Seth Hall were appointed a committee to prepare the town's reply and report at an adjourned meeting on the first Monday in December. The report, which was adopted at the adjourned meeting, was as follows:

"We are of the opinion that the settling a form of government for this State is a matter of the greatest importance of a civil nature that we were ever concerned in, and ought to be proceeded in with the greatest caution and deliberation. It appears to us that the late General Assembly of this State, in their proclamation dated January 23, 1776, have well expressed that 'power always resides in the body of the people.' We understand that all males above twenty-one years of age, meeting in each separate town and acting the same thing and all their acts united together make an act of the body of the people. We apprehend it would be proper that the form of government for this State to originate in each town, and by that means we may have the ingenuity of all the State, and it may qualify men for public station, which might be effected if the present Honorable House of Representatives would divide this State into districts of about thirty miles in diameter, or less if it appear most convenient, so that none be more than fifteen miles from the center of the district, that there may be an easy communication between each town and the center of its district, that no town be divided, and that each town choose one man out of each thirty inhabitants to be a committee to meet as near the center of the district as may be; to meet about six weeks after the House of Representatives have issued their order for the towns to meet and draw a form of government, and the same committee to carry with them the form of government their town has drawn at the district meeting and compare them together, and propose to their towns what alteration their town in their opinion ought to make, and said committee in each district adjourn to carry to their several towns and lay before them in town meeting for that end, the form of government said district has agreed to, and the town agrees to or alters as they see meet; after which each district committee to choose a man as a committee to meet all as one committee at Watertown at twelve weeks after the order of the House of Representatives for the town first meeting to draw a form of government, which committee of the whole State may be empowered to send precepts to the several towns in this State to choose one man out of sixty to

meet in convention at Watertown, or such other town as each committee shall judge best. Six weeks from the time of said district's last sitting the said one man out of sixty to meet in convention to draw from the forms of government drawn by each district committee one form of government for the whole State; after which said convention to send to each town the form of government they have drawn for the town's confirmation or alteration, then adjourn, notifying each town to make return to them of their doings at said convention, and at said adjournment said convention draw a general plan or form of government for this State, so that they add nothing nor diminish nothing from the general sense of each town, and that each town be at the charge of all they employ in the affair."

Although the language used in this report might be improved on, its purport is clear and shows how zealously the early colonists guarded the right of local self-government as the very corner-stone of their political liberty. Rev. Noah Alden, pastor of the Baptist Church, was elected a delegate from Bellingham to the constitutional convention which met at Cambridge on September 1, 1779, and part of his instructions was to see "that each part of the State have properly delegated their power for such a purpose, and that a bill of rights be framed wherein the natural rights of individuals be clearly ascertained—that is, all such rights as the supreme power of the State shall have no authority to control—to be a part of the Constitution."

The idea carried by these instructions was not peculiar to Bellingham. It pervaded all the colonies. In a modified form it was applied in the adoption of the Federal Constitution, which was submitted to the several states for ratification, and in every one of the forty-eight states of the American Union the State constitution was submitted to the people for their approval or rejection before it became effective.

#### EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW TOWN

Owing to the inconvenience in attending the town meetings at Bellingham Centre, some of the citizens living in the northern portion of the town started a movement in 1807 to form a new town by taking parts of Bellingham, Franklin, Medway and Holliston, the last named in Middlesex County. A petition to that effect was sent to the Legislature, which appointed a committee to view the territory. The committee reported adversely and the matter was dropped for the time.

In 1816 the question again came before the Legislature and the standing committee on towns in the House of Representatives reported favorably, providing the boundaries asked for in the petition were changed so as to take a smaller portion of Bellingham. To this proposition the petitioners would not assent and the petition was then denied by the Legislature.

Eight years later the subject was again agitated and several hearings were granted by the General Court, but nothing definite was accomplished. In May, 1824, another petition came before the Legislature asking for the erection of a new town with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the Milford line on the northerly side of Nahum Clark's farm, and running easterly, including said farm and across the land of Henry Adams, to a stake and stones on the northerly side

of a town road; thence across said road to the northeast corner of the Adams farm; thence to a white oak tree standing on the east side of the road, about twenty rods north of Capt. Jonathan Harding's barn; thence to the south side of the farm belonging to the estate of A. Morse, opposite his dwelling house; thence to continue in a straight line on the southerly side of Morse's farm to the Pond road, so called; thence running southerly on said road about twenty-five rods; thence easterly in a straight line along the south side of Capt. M. Rockwood's home farm to the old grant line (so called); thence southerly on said line and Candlewood Island road (so called) to the old county road; thence running southerly across said road and Charles River to the end of a road near Amos Fisher's house in Franklin; thence southwesterly on said road to a town road leading from the factory village in Medway to Franklin meeting house; thence to the corner of the road near the house of Joseph Bacon; thence, following said road by Luther Ellis' house, to the southeasterly corner of Leonard Lawrence's land on the westerly side of said road; thence to the southeast corner of Stephen Allen's meadow land; thence westerly across Mine Brook to a white oak tree on the line between Bellingham and Franklin; thence westerly on a division line of lands of Stephen Metcalf and Jesse Coombs to a town road in Bellingham; thence westerly across Charles River to a stake and stones beside the turnpike road west of Elijah Dewing's barn; thence crossing said road and running northwesterly to a town road on the division line of Nathan Allen and Benjamin R. Partridge, easterly from said Allen's house; thence northerly on said division line to the Holliston town line; thence running westerly on Holliston's line to farm corner (so called); thence northerly on the town line of Milford to the corner first mentioned."

Doubtless many of the land marks mentioned have disappeared and the ownership of farms changed until it would be extremely difficult, if not utterly impossible, to trace the boundaries of this proposed town. The prayer of the petitioners was refused by the Legislature and no further efforts were made to divide the Town of Bellingham, consequently its boundaries remain as they were established when the dispute with Wrentham was settled in 1724.

#### TOWN HALL

In 1800, the town experiencing some difficulty in obtaining the use of the meeting house for public meetings, appointed Ezekiel Bates, Eliab Wight, John Scammell and Laban Bates a committee "to examine into and report upon the feasibility of constructing a new building and finding a suitable location therefor." The committee reported as follows:

"We are of the opinion that the most central and convenient spot for erecting said building is on the land occupied by David Jones, situated at the end of the road leading from Ezekiel Bates' dwelling house to the road known as the Taunton Road, and is bounded partly on the west by the said Taunton Road. The said Jones proposes giving the town one acre of land for the purpose of setting said house and other buildings upon, provided said town will agree to erect such a building as will best accommodate the religious society in said town for a house of public worship."

About the time this report was submitted Joseph Fairbanks, who had previously set up a saw and grist mill on the Charles River, associated with him several of his neighbors and made the following offer to the town:

"Bellingham, March 15, A. D. 1800.

"We, the undersigned, do hereby propose to the inhabitants of said Bellingham that we will undertake the building of a public house in said town for the purpose of better accommodating said inhabitants to transact their public concerns in. We propose said house to be forty-five by fifty feet on the ground, twenty-five feet posts, and one porch fourteen feet square, which shall be built of good materials and be well wrought; providing said town will grant the sum of one thousand dollars, five hundred to be assessed and paid into the treasury for the above purpose by the first day of April, 1801, and the other five hundred to be paid by April 1, 1802, and also to grant us the privilege of building pews in said house for the accommodation of the religious society in said town, and giving us the benefit of the sale of said pews to defray in part the expense of said building; and if the above proposals shall be accepted by a vote of said town, we do hereby jointly and severally agree and engage completely to finish said house without any other expense to said town, and we will give bonds to indemnify for the above purpose.

"In testimony whereof we have hereto set our hands.

"JOSEPH FAIRBANKS

"LABAN BATES

"ELIAB WIGHT

"SIMEON HOLBROOK

"SETH HOLBROOK

"SAMUEL DARLING, JR.

"JOHN SCAMMELL

"JOHN CHILSON

"ELISHA BURR

"STEPHEN METCALF, JR."

At a meeting held in the following September, the proposition of these ten public-spirited men was accepted and work commenced upon the building. It was completed in 1802 and was dedicated in December of that year, Rev. Thomas Baldwin of Boston preaching the dedicatory sermon. That the builders did their work well may be seen from the fact that the building, although more than a century old, is still used as the town hall and is well preserved.

#### WATERWORKS

From the first settlement of the town, the people have depended upon wells for their supply of water for domestic purposes. At the town meeting of March 6, 1916, it was unanimously voted "That the town do establish a system for supplying the inhabitants of the town residing in the villages of North Bellingham, Caryville and South Bellingham with water, and that Addison E. Bullard, Cornelius W. Fitzpatrick, Timothy E. Foley, Hadley D. Perkins and Ervin E. Biglow be appointed a committee with authority to construct such system and lay pipes, and to make contracts in relation to the same in the name and behalf of the town."

The sum of \$150 was appropriated for the use of the committee in securing expert advice, etc. Plans were drawn and specifications prepared for two water systems—one in the north end and the other in the south end—the former to be connected with the Medway water system and the latter with that of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Owing to the prevailing high prices of materials nothing further was done by the committee, though the people in the two districts are still hopeful that the near future will find them provided with waterworks.

## POSTOFFICES

Early in the year 1837 the people of the town sent a petition to the Post Office Department asking that an office be established at Bellingham Centre, and recommended Rev. Joseph T. Massey for the position of postmaster. Later in the year the office was established under the name of "Bellingham" and Mr. Massey was appointed. For many years this office had but one mail a day from Boston.

In the extreme northeast corner of the town is the village of Caryville, named after William H. Cary who was at one time a resident of that locality. A post-office was established here a few years after the one at the "Centre," with two daily mails from Boston, one from Milford and one from Medway. At the beginning of the year 1917 the postoffices of the town were those at Bellingham, Caryville and North Bellingham. Many of the inhabitants receive mail daily by rural carrier.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The earliest birth noted in the vital records of Bellingham is that of "Elezebath, daughter of Zuriell and Susanah Hall," who was born on June 8, 1688, while the town was still a part of Dedham and Mendon. The earliest recorded marriage is that of Pliny Holbrook and Martha Perkins, which was solemnized on May 7, 1726. Walter Cook and Margery Corbet were married on the 17th of October in the same year. The date of the earliest death given in the vital records is March 26, 1720, when Elizabeth, daughter of Peter and Hannah Holbrook, died. In the old cemetery stands the gravestone of Josiah Corbet, the inscription showing that he died in 1705, but his name does not appear in the records. Near by is the gravestone of John Corbet [Corbett], who died in 1706.

## ODD LEGISLATION

Exercising the privilege of the New England township conferred by the General Court, Bellingham frequently issued orders or edicts having all the force of local laws, and provided penalties for their violation. In April, 1777, Silas Penniman fell ill and it was reported he had the smallpox. A town meeting was hurriedly called and it was voted to establish a hospital "in the woods." The records of that meeting also show that it was "Voted that the town forbid any person from having the smallpox in the house of Daniel or Silas Penniman, except said Silas, now sick, and if any person or persons be so presumptuous as to have the smallpox in either of them two houses they shall forfeit to the town ten pounds, to be recovered by the treasurer."

In the spring of 1791 the smallpox again made its appearance and the question came up in the town meeting "to see if the town will provide a house for the inoculation of the smallpox, and voted no." The people of that day had little faith in the efficacy of vaccination, but the meeting voted "that the town disapprove of the Smallpox coming into the town Contrary to Law."

During the next forty-five years public opinion underwent a change, for when another epidemic of smallpox came in 1836 an appropriation was made for a hos-

pital on the town farm and one hundred and fifty dollars were expended for vaccination.

#### THE BELLINGHAM OF TODAY

On November 27, 1919, Bellingham can celebrate its two hundredth anniversary as a town. During these two centuries great changes have come. The wild beast and the savage Indian have disappeared and in their places have come the hum of civilized industry. The chief occupation of the people of Bellingham is agriculture. Fifty years ago shoes, farm tools, cotton and woolen goods and some other commodities were manufactured in considerable quantities. A few of these factories are still running, but most of them have been discontinued or removed to more favorable localities. Their history is given in the chapter on "Manufacturing." Bellingham has three public schools and in the year 1916 expended \$10,702.84 for educational purposes. The public library, though small, is well selected and well patronized by the people. Two lines of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railway system and three electric lines afford ample transportation facilities to all parts of the town. In 1910 the population was 1,696 and in 1915 the state census reported it to be 1,953, a gain of 257 in five years. In 1916 the property was valued for taxation at \$1,107,960.

The town officers at the beginning of the year 1917 were as follows: Selectmen, Michael J. Kennedy, Harold M. Bullard and Hadley D. Perkins; Clerk, Percy C. Burr; Treasurer and Tax Collector, Walter H. Thayer; Auditor, Harold G. Sackett; Assessors, Orville C. Rhodes, Timothy E. Foley and Carroll E. White; Overseers of the Poor, Emery B. Whiting, Otto L. Bullard and Percy C. Burr; School Committee, Henry McCarthy, Chester H. Richards and Richard B. Sill.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—SURFACE AND DRAINAGE—FIRST WHITE MEN—BRAINTREE INCORPORATED—PETITION OF 1645—SAMUEL GORTON—NEW BRAINTREE—THE PRECINCTS—THE FIRST MILL—TOWN HALL—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT—WATERWORKS—ELECTRIC LIGHT WORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—POSTOFFICES—A FEW FIRST THINGS—BRAINTREE IN 1917—TOWN OFFICERS.

The Town of Braintree, situated in the eastern part of Norfolk County, was incorporated by act of the General Court on May 13, 1640. As originally established, it embraced the present towns of Braintree, Quincy, Randolph and Holbrook. Quincy was set off on February 22, 1792, and Randolph (which included Holbrook) on March 9, 1793, reducing Braintree to its present dimensions. On the north it is bounded by the Town of Quincy; on the east by Weymouth; on the south by Randolph and Holbrook, and on the west by Quincy and Randolph.

#### SURFACE AND DRAINAGE

In common with other portions of Norfolk County, Braintree has a generally rolling surface, though the elevations here are not so large as those in some of the adjacent towns. The north fork of the Monatiquot River crosses the western boundary at the northeast corner of Randolph and flows in a southeasterly direction. The south fork forms part of the dividing line between Braintree and Randolph. A short distance south of South Braintree the two unite and from that point the main stream follows a northeasterly course to the Weymouth Fore River. Great Pond is situated between the forks of the Monatiquot, on the line between Braintree and Randolph; Little Pond is near the center of the town, and in the southern part is a small body of water called Cranberry Pond. The waters of all these ponds finally reach the Monatiquot through small streams.

#### FIRST WHITE MEN

In September, 1621, an expedition of thirteen men, under command of Capt. Miles Standish, came up the coast from Plymouth in a large sailboat, entered Boston Harbor and landed on Squantum Head, in what is now the Town of Quincy. These were the first Englishmen to set foot upon the soil of this part of Norfolk County. They made no attempt to found a settlement but "returned in safety to Plymouth, full of admiration of the noble harbor and the fair country surrounding it, which they had then for the first time seen, and wishing they had been there seated."

Thomas Morton, with a company of about thirty men, came to Mount Wollaston in June, 1622, and made a feeble effort to establish a plantation. He soon afterward returned to England, but came back to America as a member of Captain Wollaston's company of adventurers in June, 1625. This company established a settlement at Mount Wollaston (then so named after the leader of the expedition), building several houses and laying out a plantation. The severe winter that followed seems to have been enough for Captain Wollaston, who left there early in 1626 and went to Virginia. Those who remained came under the leadership of Morton, who was afterward arrested and sent to England, charged with selling liquors and fire-arms to the Indians in violation of the royal proclamation. (See the chapter on Quincy for a further account of Morton's doings).

After the expulsion of Morton, the Neponset River was for several years the southern border of the settlements about Boston. But in May, 1634, the General Court ordered "that Boston shall have convenient enlargement at Mount Wollaston, to be set out by four different men, who shall draw a plot thereof and present it to the General Court, when it shall be confirmed." The report of the "four different men" was confirmed by the General Court the following September. By this arrangement large tracts of land were given to certain people of Boston, most of whom held their lands for speculation, but a few came and established their homes south of the Neponset, and from 1634 dates the first permanent settlement of Braintree. Some five years later considerable dissatisfaction arose on account of the non-resident land owners, and the following covenant was agreed upon as a settlement of the question:

"It is agreed with our neighbors of Mount Wollaston, viz.: William Cheesebrooke, Alexander Winchester, Rich: Wright, James Penniman, i. e. in the name of the rest (for whom they undertooke) that they should give to Boston 4 shs the acre for 2 acr of the 7 ac formerly granted to divers men of Boston upon expectation that they should have continued still with us; and 3s the ac for every acre which hath bene or shallbee granted to any other who are not inhabitants of Boston, and that, in consideration hereof and after the said potions of money shallbee paid to the towne treasurer, all ye said lands shallbee free from any towne rates or charges to Boston: & upon the tearms and alsoe from all county rates assessed with Boston, but to bee rated by the Court by its selfe: Provided that this order shall not extend to any more or other lands than such as shall make payment of the said rates so agreed upon of the 4s and 3s the ac; & upon the former consideration there is granted to the Mount all that Rockye Ground lying between the Fresh Brook & Mr. Coddington brooke adjoining to Mr. Hough's farme & from the West Corner of that farme to the south west corner of Mr. Hutchinson's farme to be reserved & used in common for ever by the Inhabitants & landholers there: together with an other parcell of Rockie ground near Knights Neek which was left out of the third company of lots excepting all such ground lying among or near these said Rockye grounds formerly granted in lots to particular Persons."

#### BRAINTREE INCORPORATED

Soon after this covenant was made a petition of the residents was presented to the General Court asking that they might be incorporated into a separate town,

and on May 13, 1640, the Court enacted the following: "The petition of the inhabitants of Mount Wollaston was voted & granted them to bee a town according to the agreement with Boston: Provided, that if they fulfill not the covenant made with Boston & hearto affixed, it shabee in the power of Boston to recover their due by action against the said inhabitants, or any of them, and the town is to be called Braintree."

The town was named after Braintree, in the County of Essex, England. At the time it was incorporated in 1640 the resident land owners, most of whom signed the petition, were as follows: Henry Adams, George Aldrich, Samuel Allen, Benjamin Albye, John Arnold, Gregory Belcher, Peter Brackett, James Clark, John Clark, Thomas Clark, John Dasset, William Davis, Francis Eliot, John French, Richard Hayward, Thomas Jewell, Benjamin Keayne, Stephen Kingsley, Henry Maudsley, John Merchant, Thomas Meakins, John Miles, Henry Neale, William Needham, John Pafflyn, Alexander Plumley, George Puffer, Abel Porter, William Potter, Robert Scott, George Sheppard,, Thomas Thayer, Edward Tinge, Henry Webb, George Wright and Richard Wright.

Samuel A. Bates says: "Previous to its incorporation Quincy was called Mount Wollaston and Braintree, Monoticut. It took its name from the river which flows through it, and which is spelled in so many different ways in the ancient records that it is uncertain which is the correct one. It is now written 'Monatiquot.' Holbrook and a part of Randolph (perhaps the whole) were called Cochato, sometimes Cocheco. In one instance Cochato was called Beer-sheba. Tradition says that Randolph was at one time called 'Scadding,' but I have never seen the name on the records."

#### PETITION OF 1645

A little while before Braintree was incorporated, Samuel Gorton came with a small company from England and founded a settlement in what is now Plymouth County. Gorton's religious teachings soon brought him into conflict with the colonial authorities. On November 3, 1643, it was ordered by the General Court "That Samuel Gorton shall bee confined to Charlestowne there to be set on worke and to weare such boults or irons as may hind'r his escape and to continue during the pleasure of the Co'rt: Provided that if hee shall breake his said confinement't or shall in the meane time either by speach or writeing publish declare or maintaine any of the blasphemos or abominable heresys wherew'th hee hath bene charged by the Generall Co'rt contained in either of the two bookes sent unto us by him or Randle Holden or shall reproach (or) repr've the churches of o'r Lord Jesus Christ in these United Colonies or the civill governm't or the publick ordinances of God therein (unless it bee by answer to some question ppounded to him in conference w'th any elder or with any other licensed to speake with him privately under the hand of one of the Assistants) that immediately upon accusation of any such writeing or speach hee shall by such Assistant to whom such accusation shallbee brought bee committed to prison till the next Co'rt of Assistants then and there to be tryed by a Jury whether hee hath so spoken or written and upon his conviction there of shallbee Condemed to death and Executed."

This was rather severe upon one who sought to exercise that religious liberty

for which the Pilgrims and Puritans exiled themselves from their native land, but it had the effect of breaking up Gorton's settlement. Not long after Gorton was confined at Charlestown, pursuant to the above order, the General Court ordered him to be banished from Massachusetts and he sought a refuge in Rhode Island, some of those who came with him from England accompanying him to that colony. In 1645 a petition was presented to the authorities by some of the inhabitants of Braintree, asking for permission to begin a new plantation "where Gorton and his companie had erected two or more houses."

Those who signed the petition were: Christopher Adams, Henry Adams, Sr., Henry Adams, Jr., John Adams, Samuel Adams, Thomas Adams, George Aldridge, Thomas Barrett, Richard Brackett, Deodatus Curtis, Francis Eliot, William Ellice, Thomas Flatman, John French, John Garing, Humfry Grigs, John Hastings, Nathaniel Herman, Stephen Kingsley, Henry Maudsley, Thomas Meakins, Robert Quelues, John Shepard, Daniel Shode, Edward Sparlden, William Vaysey, Arthur Waring, Thomas Waterman, Christopher Webb, John Wheateley, Thomas Wilmet and Nicholas Woode, "They beeing about twenty of the thirty-two subscribers freemen."

The petition was dated October 7, 1645, and a few days later it was denied by Mr. Browne, one of the commissioners of the United Colonies, who gave as his reason therefor that the place was in Plymouth and that the Massachusetts Bay Colony had no jurisdiction. Thus ended the first effort of the people of Braintree to acquire more territory.

#### NEW BRAINTREE

By 1666 practically all of the land in the town available for cultivation had been allotted to settlers. Early in October of that year the inhabitants presented to the General Court a petition "to grant unto us a quantity of six thousand acres of land in some place so as may be a relief to the inhabitants of this Towne which we hope will be according to God & no detriment to any other Township."

On October 11, 1666, the General Court voted that "In answer to the petition of the Inhabitants of Braintree, the Court on Consideration of the reasons therein expressed judge meet to grant unto them six thousand acres of Land in some place, limited to one place, not prejudicing any plantation or particular grant."

A committee of the citizens selected a tract lying between Braintree and Plymouth, but the General Court refused to confirm the selection. On March 31, 1670, the selectmen of the town appointed a deputy to bring the matter before the General Court. The personnel of that body had changed materially since the petition had been allowed four years before, and the Court saw "no cause to grant the petition." There the matter rested for more than forty years. At the town meeting on March 2, 1713, Peter Adams, John Cleverly, Nehemiah Hayden, Nathaniel Hubbard and Joseph Neall were elected selectmen. These men immediately set in motion the machinery to obtain the grant of 6,000 acres allowed by the General Court in 1666. First they ascertained that the claim of the town was still valid, and then the question was submitted to a town meeting on June 8, 1713. At that meeting the action of the selectmen was approved, and it was voted "That Captain Chapin, Peter Webb and Joseph Crosby be a committee to find & lay out the six thousand acres of land formerly granted by the Honoured

Court to this Town & to do what is needful to be done about the same in ye space of one year & shall have for their so doing Thirty Pounds if the thing be effected otherwise nothing. And if Captain Chapin should refuse to go then Captain Mills to be joyn'd to ye other two."

The committee visited several localities where the land had not all been parceled out to actual settlers, and finally selected a tract in the western part of Worcester County. The tract soon afterward became known as "Braintree Farms." In 1751 it was included in and gave name to the Town of New Braintree. It was so far away that only a few of the inhabitants of Braintree went there to settle and the land was divided into lots and sold, the proceeds being divided among the precincts—that portion of the town now comprising Quincy being known as the North Precinct, Braintree proper, the Middle Precinct, and Randolph and Holbrook, the South Precinct.

#### THE PRINCINCTS

It may be of interest to the reader to know something of the manner in which the town was divided into three precincts. The original Braintree settlement was along the shores of the bay and on the upland and in the valleys in the immediate vicinity. In February, 1640, only about three months before the incorporation of Braintree as a separate town, a grant of land on the Monatiquot River was made to John Collins, who was probably the first actual settler in that locality. By slow degrees the population worked its way back from the shores of the bay into the interior.

On January 19, 1643, the Town of Boston granted to John Winthrop and his associates 3,000 acres of land on the Monatiquot, "to be laid out next adjoining and most convenient for their said iron works." The "said iron works" thus referred to consisted of a company formed about that time under the name of the "Company Undertakers of the Iron Works," for the purpose of establishing a foundry somewhere in the colony of Massachusetts. The works were built on the Monatiquot River and stimulated immigration to that part of the Town of Braintree, though as early as 1658 a few adventurous settlers had established claims as far west and south as the present Randolph line, on the old road to Taunton. One of these settlers was John Moore, who located upon a tract of 600 acres between the Monatiquot River and the Great Pond. This tract was known as the "Moore Farm" for more than two centuries, and that portion of the river forming part of its boundary was called "Moore's Farm River," in memory of the first settler upon its banks.

Now, it should be borne in mind that during the early settlement of Massachusetts, the church and the town government were inseparable, remaining so in fact, to some degree at least, until after the adoption of the revised constitution in 1820, which made a complete separation of the church and state. About thirty-five years after John Moore and his associates settled in the southwestern part of the town, a sentiment grew up among them that they were entitled to a more convenient place for holding religious services, as some of them were compelled to go several miles to attend public worship. No organized effort was made, however, to establish another church until about 1690. The movement was opposed by the inhabitants of the northern portion of the town and a bitter feud

grew up between the different sections. Little can be learned of the dispute from the records, but one John Marshall, who lived in the north end, left a diary in which were some caustic criticisms of certain persons living in the southern part, "who acted in a disorderly manner and withdrew from the Lord's table." The contention went on until 1706, when the members of the congregation living in the southern part built a new meeting house at the corner of Elm and Washington streets. Concerning this meeting house Samuel A. Bates says: "That it was built legally no one claimed, but its founders did claim that might had deprived them of their just rights, the opposers of the new movement being composed of the most influential citizens of the town, at the head of whom stood the Hon. Edmund Quincy, one of the leaders of government in the colony."

Notwithstanding the influential opposition, the builders of the meeting house went ahead, and on September 10, 1707, Rev. Hugh Adams was installed as pastor. The north end continued its objections and the members of the new congregation petitioned the legal authorities to be set off as a distinct precinct, or parish, to be called "the South Precinct in Braintree." The petition was granted on condition that they continued to pay their proportion of the expense of supporting the old society, which was levied upon them in the form of a tax, and also to pay for their own pastor, the money for which was raised by subscription. On November 3, 1708, a town meeting was held "to fix upon a suitable and reasonable line of division, and that said line be lovingly agreed upon and settled, if it may be." There were some who still opposed the division of the town, but after some discussion it was voted that Edmund Quincy and Nehemiah Hayden be appointed a committee to agree upon a line and present the matter to the General Court, then in session, asking that the southern part of the town be set off as a separate precinct. This was done two days later, hence the South Precinct came legally into existence on November 5, 1708. Among those who were especially active in bringing about the establishment of the new precinct were: Joseph Allen, Samuel Bass, Samuel French, Nehemiah Hayden, Caleb Hobart, Samuel Niles, Jr., Ebenezer Thayer and Samuel White.

After the division of the church and the organization of the South Precinct, the original Braintree settlement appears in the records as the North Precinct, which was set off as the Town of Quincy in 1792. The records of a town meeting held on November 17, 1727, show clearly that there were then but the two precincts. The first mention of the Middle Precinct is in the minutes of the town meeting held on March 4, 1728. This would indicate that the precinct was established some time between those two dates, but the writer has been unable to find any account of the manner in which it was created.

#### THE FIRST MILL

One of the first acts of a town meeting was to grant to Richard Wright the privilege of building a mill. On May 1, 1641, it was ordered by a town meeting "That their shall noe other mill be built in the plantation without the consent of Richard Right or his heires so long as the mill remains in ther hands which was built by the said Richard Right, unless it evidently appear that the sd mill will not serve the plantation & that he or they will not built another in convenient time."

This mill figured prominently in the town's history for more than a quarter of a century. On April 30, 1662, a case came before a Country Court held in Boston, in which the parties to the action were as follows: "Thomas ffaxon, Sen<sup>r</sup> Peter Brackit & Moses Paine in the behalfe of the Towne of Brantrey Plaintiff vs Thomas Gatcliffe of the s<sup>d</sup> Towne Defendant." In this action the defendant was charged with "Trespassing vpon the Townes right in lands that is or hath bine flowed by the mill pond by mowing grass and chalenging it as his owne propriety; as also trespassing vpon the Towne's common in fencing in part of it & vpon the townes highway by his building fencing & digging holes according to attachment dat: 23 2d mo 1662."

It seems that Gatcliffe showed to the satisfaction of the court that he had acted within his rights in "trespassing" as charged, and the case was settled by the plaintiffs and defendant entering into the following agreement:

"Whereas a p'cell of land aboute twenty years Sinc was granted vnto Richard Wright by ye Towne of boston for the encoriment and furtheranc of a water mill at Brantrey wch said mill & pond together with other estate hath been solde by the said Wright vnto major Gibbins & by him vnto Symon Lynde and by the said Lynd assigned to Thomas Gatcliffe who now dwelleth (on) & posesseth the same & Wheras sundry differences are arisen concerning ye mill pond & flowing therof by reason of divers apprehensions how & for what end ye sd pond was granted therefore so it is that I Thomas Gatcliffe of Brantrey miller doe herby owne & declare that I doe fully apreehend & adjudge that ye sayd mill and pond & flowing thereof was at first granted for such an end and purpose as that ye Towne of Brantrey might be served & accommodated therby and as it hath ben hitherto so improved & at this time it is so: I declare and promise by gods assistance that I my heires & assignes shall so improved the said pond & noe wayes seeke to cast downe or demolish the same to the Frustrateing of ye Townes accomodations as wel as my owne particuler proffit by grinding.

"And we Thomas ffaxon, Sr., Peter Brackitt and Moses Paine, part of the Selectmen of Brantrey and as chosen & apointed by ye Towne of Brantrey to end and settle the differences about ye said pond doe also herby in o'r owne name & and in the name of ye Towne of Brantrey declare & owne that we also aprehend & Judge that the formentioned mill pond was granted as aforsaid for & to such an end & purpose as is above exprest and doe herby for us and o'r successors of ye Towne of Brantrey declare and promise that neither wee nor they shall or will seeke to interrupt hinder or molest the said Thomas Gatlieffe his heires or assignes for or touching ye s<sup>d</sup> mill pond or ye flowing therof or any wayes seeke to demolish the same but on ye contrary gladly cherrish & countenanc the main-tening & upholding the same for the ends and purposes aformentioned for wch it was granted."

The agreement was signed by all the plaintiffs and the defendant, and was witnessed by Richard Brackett and Richard Cook. The settlement of this suit left Thomas Gatcliffe in peaceable possession of the mill property and for a number of years thereafter he ground the town's corn. Twelve years later the mill question again came before a town meeting. The records for January 20, 1674, contain the following entry:

"Ther being a legal Towne meeting of the inhabitants meet to consider of some proposalls made to the Towne by Leut John Holbrook & Christopher Webb

about the mill being wholly demolished by fire there was chosen Capt Rich Brackit Deacon Base (Bass) Edm Quinsey Robert Tweles & Joseph Crosby by the Towne for a committee to heare and consider and to act for themselves & the Towne of Brantrey's behalfe."

On the 22nd the committee reported that the original grant to Richard Wright and the contract with Thomas Gatcliffe had been duly considered, in connection with the proposals of Lieutenant Holbrook and Christopher Webb, and closed the report with this statement: "We agree that the custom of the Towne is ingagged to this mill while wel supplied & vsed Therefore we account him an offender that doe make vse of any River that is not perticuler propriety to grind for the Inhabitants." Thus the monopoly granted to Richard Wright thirty-five years before was maintained and this mill remained for some years longer the only one authorized by the town.

#### TOWN HALL

From the incorporation of the town in 1640 to 1730 the town meetings were held in the North Precinct meeting house. For the following twenty years they were held alternately in that building and the meeting house in the Middle Precinct. From 1750 to the building of the town hall on the corner of Washington and Union streets in 1830 they were held in the Middle Precinct meeting house. The first meeting in the town hall was held on March 1, 1830. That hall was sold in 1858 to private parties, who removed it to Taylor Street and converted it into two dwelling houses.

On February 11, 1851, was probated the will of Josiah French, a native of Braintree and a man who had been active in promoting the interests of the town. The will was dated March 19, 1845, and contained the following provision: "I give and devise to the Town of Braintree, in the County of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a certain piece of mowing and tillage land lying situate in said Braintree, containing five acres, more or less, and bounded as follows: Easterly on Washington Street, northerly on land of Capt. Ralph Arnold, southerly on town land, and westerly on land of Peter Dyer. To have and to hold the same to the said Town of Braintree forever, to be used and occupied by the said town as a common or common field for companies and buildings for town or public business, but no private dwelling houses or buildings whatever to be placed on said premises, but to be forever French's common, except the wood I give my wife."

Mr. French died on January 1, 1851, and after his will was probated the town had to defend a lawsuit before it obtained possession of the property. The case was finally settled in favor of the town and immediately afterward it was decided to erect a new town hall upon the tract, which is situated near the geographical center of the town. The new building was completed in 1858, when the old hall was sold, as already stated. The hall erected in 1858 was used for town meetings and the transaction of public business until its destruction by fire, when the present handsome and commodious structure was erected upon the same site. Braintree now has one of the finest and best appointed town halls in the State of Massachusetts. It is of brick, stone and steel and is as nearly fireproof as human ingenuity can devise. On the main floor are the town offices and a large hall,

capable of seating about one thousand people. On the second floor is a hall for the Grand Army of the Republic and rooms used for various purposes. The basement contains the heating plant and storage vaults. It was completed in 1912 and cost about ninety thousand dollars.

On French's Common is also situated the public library, and between the library building and the town hall stands the soldiers' monument, which was dedicated on June 17, 1874.

#### THE MONUMENT

Early in the year 1865 a meeting of citizens was held in the town hall to consider the subject of erecting a suitable memorial to the Braintree soldiers who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Union. As a means of raising the necessary funds it was decided to hold a fair, a project in which the women of the town joined and about fourteen hundred dollars were thus realized. With this fund as a nucleus a canvass for subscriptions was commenced. Harvey White left the monument fund a legacy of \$500, which with the sum raised by the fair and the subscriptions paid in was placed at interest until such time as the money was needed to pay for a memorial.

In 1867 another meeting was held, at which F. A. Hobart, Asa French, Horace Abercrombie, Levi W. Hobart, E. W. Arnold, Jason G. Howard, Edward Avery, Alva Morrison and Edward Potter were appointed a committee "to procure plans and estimates for a suitable memorial." Mr. Howard and Mr. Potter removed from the town before anything definite was done by the committee, and their places were filled by James T. Stevens and William M. Richards. Several designs were submitted to the committee and on June 27, 1873, the town voted "That the soldiers' monument committee be instructed to erect upon some portion of the town land, near the town house, a statue cut in granite, after a model submitted by Messrs. Batterson & Canfield of Hartford, Connecticut, with a pedestal designed by H. & J. E. Billings, architects of Boston, at a cost not exceeding five thousand dollars above the foundation."

On the front of the pedestal is the inscription: "The Town of Braintree builds this monument in grateful remembrance of the brave men whose names it bears." On the reverse is the simple inscription—"Dying they Triumphed," and on the north and south sides are the names of the forty-six Braintree soldiers who fell in action or died while in the service of the United States. The pedestal is surmounted by a life-sized statue of an infantry soldier, standing with his musket "at rest," carved in Westerly granite. The total cost of the monument was \$6,466.26 of which sum the town appropriated \$3,628.07.

#### WATERWORKS

The first move toward supplying the Town of Braintree with water for domestic purposes and for extinguishing fires was made on March 26, 1884, when the Legislature passed an act incorporating the Braintree Water Supply Company. In the act N. E. Hollis, Benjamin F. Dyer, George D. Willis, James T. Stevens, A. S. Morrison, Samuel W. Hollis and Ebenezer Denton were named as the incorporators of the company, and they, their "associates, successors and assigns,"

were authorized to make a contract with the Quincy Water Company for a supply of water for the Town of Braintree.

This act was repealed by the act of June 3, 1886, which incorporated a new Water Supply Company in the name of Francis A. Hobart, William Wheeler, Joseph E. Manning, E. W. Arnold, Benjamin F. Dyer and Charles F. Parks, "their associates and successors." The new company was given the privilege of taking the waters, "or so much thereof as may be necessary," of Great Pond, situated in the towns of Braintree and Randolph, "and the waters of any spring or artesian or driven wells within the Town of Braintree, and the water rights connected therewith, except the property known as the Monatiquot spring, so called, in South Braintree," etc.

The capital stock of the company, as authorized by the act, was not to exceed \$100,000, and Section 10 provided: "That the said Town of Braintree shall have the right, at any time during the continuance of the charter hereby granted, to purchase the franchise, corporate property and all rights and privileges of said corporation, at a price which may be mutually agreed upon between said corporation and the said town," etc., and by Section 11 the town was authorized to issue bonds to an amount not exceeding \$100,000 to pay for the same, or to provide for annual payments which should not extend beyond the life of the charter.

By the act of May 20, 1891, the town was authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$50,000, or notes or scrip to that amount, "to complete the purchase of the waterworks of the Braintree Water Supply Company." The act also authorized the town to take certain lands on the borders of Little Pond, in order to obtain an additional water supply. Under the provisions of this act, the Braintree Waterworks became the property of the town. Since that time additional bonds and notes have been authorized for the purpose of extending the mains, purchasing new pumping machinery and otherwise improving the plant. At the close of the year 1916 the total amount of water bonds and notes outstanding was \$276,000. For the redemption of these bonds there was at the same time an accumulated sinking fund of \$229,810.04, leaving a net indebtedness on the waterworks of \$46,189.96. According to the report of W. E. Maybury, superintendent of the works, there were a little over forty-six miles of mains, and the income for the year from the sale of water and making connections was \$32,347.46.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT WORKS

The Braintree municipal lighting plant was established in 1893. Of the bonds issued on April 5, 1893, to pay for construction, the amount outstanding on December, 31, 1916, was \$16,500, practically offset by a sinking fund of \$15,866.92. At the close of the year 1916 the service included 725 street lights, for which the town paid \$6,282, and 1,600 private customers. According to the report of the town treasurer, the total income of the plant was \$41,890.94. During the year nearly fifteen thousand dollars were expended in the purchase of new machinery, making the estimated value of the equipment at the close of the year over one hundred thousand dollars. Few towns in the state have a better lighting system than Braintree, and the cost of light to the consumer is much lower than in many of the large cities. F. B. Lawrence, manager of the municipal lighting department, closes his report for 1916 by saying: "Prices on pole-line, hardware, poles, wire



MOUNT VERNON HOUSE, KING OAK HILL,  
WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS



BATES OPERA HOUSE. (EAST) BRAINTREE.  
FACING WEYMOUTH SQUARE



and fuel have increased considerably over 1915, yet our manufacturing cost has been well within our income. With increased business and greater generating efficiency, we expect to make an even better showing for the coming year."

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Protection against fire was a subject that early claimed the attention of the people of Braintree. On January 11, 1644, a town meeting "Ordered that evry (house) holder in this towne shall by the first day of March next insuing shall have a Ladder of his to stand up against his Chimney to secure them & the towne from fire or else shall be lyable to pay what penalty the towne's men shall impose one them."

That was the beginning of Braintree's fire protection system. The ladders were followed by the old-time "bucket brigade," in which all the citizens within call formed a line between the burning building and the nearest available water supply and passed pails of water from hand to hand, the last man at the end of the line dashing the water upon the fire. Then the hand engine and the company of volunteer firemen came into use. This was a decided improvement upon the bucket brigade, but it was far short of the present modern system of fighting fires.

The Braintree fire department now consists of three stations—one in each precinct—equipped with the most approved apparatus. Each station is provided with a hose company and a hook and ladder company, and each is equipped with a combination motor truck. The total amount of appropriation for the support of the department in 1916 was \$12,711.73, of which \$3,529.75 was for the pay of firemen. According to the report of F. A. Tenney, chief of the department, sixty-three calls were answered during the year 1916. The total value of property involved was \$94,800 and the actual loss was only a little over eleven thousand dollars—a recommendation of the department's efficiency.

#### POSTOFFICES

When the United States postoffice department was established under the law of 1792, there were not more than eight or ten regular postoffices in Massachusetts. The office at Braintree—the first in the town—was established in February, 1825, with Asa French as postmaster. He kept the office in his house on Washington Street. The South Braintree postoffice was established on March 13, 1845, with Judson Stoddard as postmaster, and was at first located on the corner of Washington and Pearl streets. The United States Postal Guide for July, 1917, gives both of these offices as branches of the Boston postoffice.

#### A FEW FIRST THINGS

The first white child born in the town was Hannah Niles, a daughter of John and Jane Niles. She was born on February 12, 1636.

The first marriage was that of Henry Adams and Elizabeth Paine, which was solemnized on October 17, 1643.

The first recorded death was that of Mary Paine, whose burial occurred on June 2, 1643.

The first case of insanity was reported in 1651, when "In answer to the petition of John Heydon of Braintree, for relief in respect of his distracted childe," he was allowed five pounds per annum toward the charges of keeping the child, etc.

The first manilla paper ever manufactured was made at the Hollingsworth Paper Mills in Braintree in 1843.

The first church was organized on Sunday, September 16, 1639.

The first school mentioned in the records was taught in 1648 by Henry Flint, teacher of the First Church.

The first factory was the iron works, established on the Monatiquot River in 1643.

The first newspaper was published on June 5, 1875.

#### BRAINTREE OF TODAY

According to the United States census, the population of Braintree in 1910 was 8,066, and the state census of 1915 reported a population of 9,343, an increase of 1,277 in five years. The assessed valuation of property in 1916 was \$9,780,179, an increase of \$1,158,127 over the assessment of the preceding year. The total appropriations made by the annual town meeting of 1916 amounted to \$195,268.73, of which \$61,093 were for the support of the public schools, and \$33,944 for the maintenance of streets and highways. From these liberal appropriations it can be readily seen that the people of Braintree believe in education and good roads. South Braintree has a bank, there are two weekly newspapers published in the town, excellent transportation facilities are afforded by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railway and the electric lines that traverse the town, churches of various denominations are open to worshipers of all beliefs, the Thayer Academy, one of the leading educational institutions of Norfolk County is located in Braintree, the manufacturing interests are both varied and extensive, the last report of the State Bureau of Statistics giving reports from eighteen Braintree concerns having a combined capital of \$3,299,047 and employing 2,000 people, and the mercantile establishments compare favorably with those in towns of similar size and population.

The principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917 were as follows: George H. Holbrook, Henry M. Storm and B. H. Woodsom, selectmen, highway surveyors and overseers of the poor; Henry A. Monk, clerk; Otis B. Oakman, treasurer; Albion C. Drinkwater, Henry W. Mansfield and Henry M. Storm, assessors; Frank W. Couillard, Paul Monaghan and C. F. Tarbox, auditors; William C. Harrison, John Kelley and James T. Stevens, water commissioners and commissioners of sinking funds; Alexander T. Carson, Charles T. Crane and Norton W. Potter, municipal light board; Ann M. Brooks, Frederick C. Folsom, William W. Gallagher, Benjamin Hawes, Carrie F. Loring and Frank A. Reed, school committee; J. F. Kemp, Ray S. Hubbard and James H. Stedman, park commissioners; Frank A. Smith, tax collector; J. S. Hill, Fred A. Tenney, Frank O. Whitmarsh and the selectmen, engineers of the fire department; Jeremiah F. Gallivan, chief of police.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE TOWN OF BROOKLINE

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND EXTENT—TOPOGRAPHY—THE HOOKER GRANT—ALLOTMENTS OF LAND—FIRST MOVE FOR SEPARATION FROM BOSTON—INCORPORATION OF BROOKLINE—FIRST ELECTION—ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—PUNCH BOWL TAVERN—BROOKLINE OF THE PRESENT.

Brookline is the most northeastern town of Norfolk County. When the county was established in 1793, its territory was continuous from the Charles River at Charlestown to the Rhode Island line. Since then the towns surrounding Brookline have all been annexed to the city, leaving the town segregated from the main body of Norfolk County and bounded on all sides by the City of Boston. Its greatest length from northeast to southwest is nearly four and a half miles, and its average width from southeast to northwest is a little less than two miles.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

Like most of the country near the sea coast in Eastern Massachusetts, the surface of Brookline rises gradually from the side next to the shore line toward the interior. On some maps are shown a line of elevations marked "Brookline Hills." The highest of these is Lyman's (or Cabot's) Hill, the summit of which is 336 feet above high-water mark. Next comes Hyde's Hill, which rises to a height of 309 feet above the high-water line. Near the old standpipe of the Brookline Waterworks is another elevation 306 feet high, and Walnut Hill has an altitude of 283 feet. Other hills, of less altitude, but equally beautiful and picturesque, are Goddard Heights, Aspinwall's, Fisher's, Corey's, Bradley's, Babcock and Chestnut Hills, all except the last mentioned deriving their names from early owners. From the top of these hills a fine view of the surrounding country may be obtained, and the diversified surface of Brookline, its location, and other attractions have made the town a favorite resort for the suburban residents of Boston.

The principal stream is the Charles River, which now merely touches the town on the northeast. When the Town of Brookline was first incorporated in 1705, the Charles River formed the boundary line for some distance on the north, but that portion of the town was subsequently annexed to Boston. Muddy River has its source in Jamaica Pond and forms a portion of the boundary line between Brookline and the city. The early settlement, known as "Muddy River Hamlet," took its name from this stream. In early days vessels of considerable tonnage could ascend the Muddy River with cargoes of goods for the inhabitants, deliver-

ing them at Aspinwall's Dock or Cotton's Landing. There are also several small brooks in the town, hence every part of it is well watered.

#### THE HOOKER GRANT

The first organized effort to plant a settlement along the shores of Muddy River was made in the autumn of 1634. Two years prior to that time Rev. Mr. Hooker and forty-six members of his congregation at Mount Wollaston were granted permission by the General Court to remove to New Town (now Cambridge). In May, 1634, these same people complained of a scarcity of land, especially meadow, in New Town and requested permission to look for and remove to a new location. The request was granted and messengers were sent out in different directions to seek a site for a new settlement. Those who went to Connecticut brought back flattering reports of the conditions there, and on September 4, 1634, a petition was presented to the General Court praying for permission to remove to Connecticut. Fifteen of the deputies expressed themselves in favor of granting the petition, but the other ten were opposed. The governor and two assistants also favored the proposition to allow the people to depart from New Town, but other officials took the opposite view. The matter was finally compromised by Mr. Hooker's company accepting the enlargements of land granted by Boston and Watertown, viz: "What are now the towns of Brookline, Brighton and Newton, excepting that portion which had previously been assigned to individuals. These donations of land to New Town were made upon condition that Mr. Hooker's company should not remove from the colony, as is shown by the record of September 25, 1634, to wit:

"Also it is ordered, that the ground aboute Muddy Ryver, belonging to Boston & vsed by the inhabitants thereof, shall hereafter belonge to Newe Towne, the wood & Timber thereof groweing & to be groweing to be reserved to the inhabitants of Boston; provided, and it is the meaneing of the Court, that if Mr. Hooker and the congregacon nowe setted here shall remove hence, that then the aforesaid meadowe ground shall returne to Waterton & the ground att Muddy Ryver to Boston."

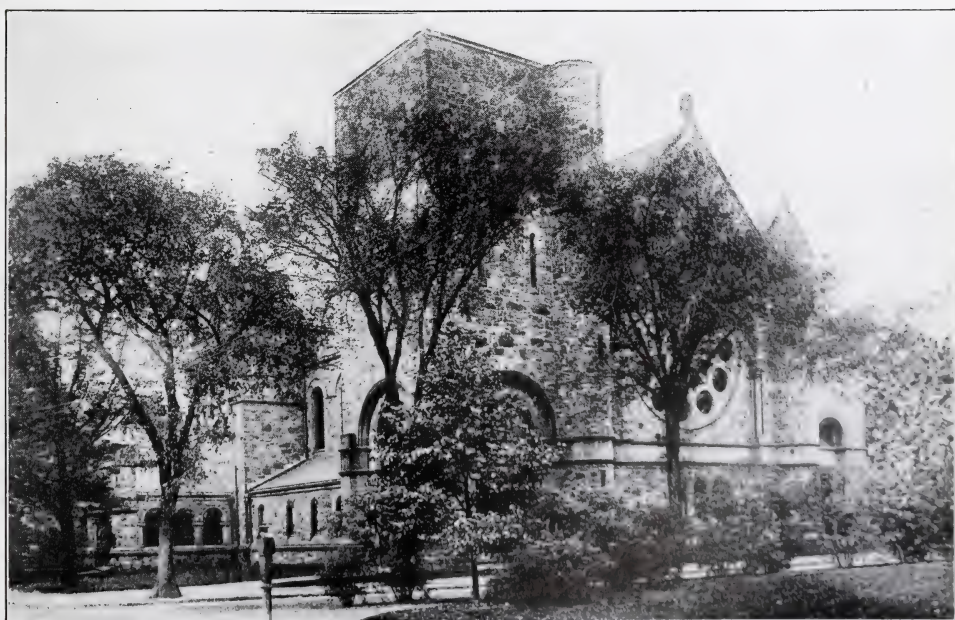
In April, 1635, the General Court appointed Ensign William Jennison to run and mark the line between New Town and Roxbury. His report was as follows: "The line between Roxbury and New Town is laid to run southwest from Muddy River near the place called 'Nowell's Bridge' a tree marked on four sides, and from the mouth of the River to that place; the south side is for Roxbury and the north for Newtown."

Apparently the lands at Muddy River were not to the liking of Mr. Hooker and his associates and the records do not show that they made any serious attempt to found a settlement at that place. Early in 1636 the entire congregation, numbering about one hundred people, led by Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone, went to Connecticut and laid the foundation of the City of Hartford. After their departure the land at Muddy River reverted to Boston, in accordance with the proviso included in the grant of September, 1634. William Spencer, Nicholas Danforth and William Jennison were appointed to locate the boundary lines between New Town and Boston and made the following report in April, 1636:

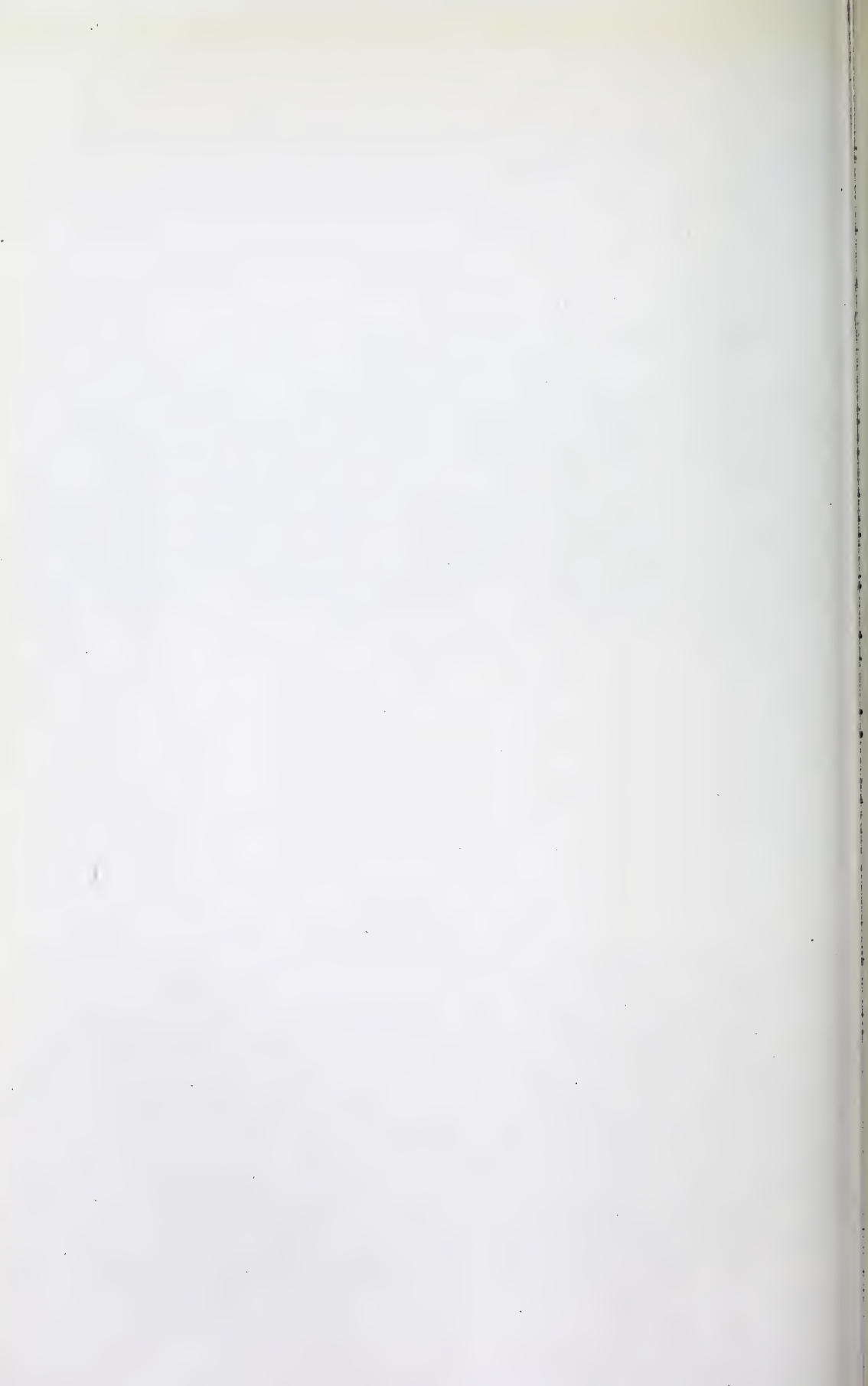
"We whose names are underwritten, being appointed by the Court to set out



COUNTRY CLUB, BROOKLINE



ST. MARK'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKLINE



the bounds of the New Town upon Charles River, do agree that the bounds of the town shall run from the marked tree, by Charles River, on the Northwest side of the Roxbury bounds, one and a half miles North east, and from thence three miles northwest, and so from thence five miles Southwest; and on the Southwest side of Charles River, from the Southeast of Roxbury bounds, to run four miles on a Southwest line, reserving the proprieties to several persons, granted by special order of the Court."

This report was signed by all three of the commissioners and their intention was to restore the Muddy River territory, or so much of it as had not been granted to individuals, as set forth in the last clause. The lines recommended by the committee were not accurately established and when the name of New Town was changed to Cambridge by act of the General Court on March 2, 1638, some dissatisfaction arose over the vague condition of the boundary dividing the towns of Cambridge and Boston. The two towns were therefore authorized to appoint members of a joint committee to settle the question. Boston appointed Thomas Oliver and William Collbron, and Cambridge appointed John Bridge, Richard Champney, Gregory Stone, Joseph Isaac and Thomas Maret. The committee was appointed on December 20, 1639, but did not do its work until the following summer, when the line was marked and established as follows:

"We whose names are underwritten being appointed by the towns to which we belong, to settle the bounds between Boston (Muddy River) and Cambridge, have agreed that the partition shall run from Charles River, up along the channel of Smelt Brook to a marked tree upon the brink of said brook, near the first and lowest reedy meadow; and from that tree, in a straight line, to the great red oak, formerly marked by agreement, at the foot of the great hill, on the northernmost end thereof; and from the said great red oak to Dedham Line, by the trees marked by agreement of both parties this August 2, 1640."

The establishment of this line restored to Boston the lands along Muddy River almost identically as they had been claimed by the town before the grant to Rev. Mr. Hooker's congregation in 1634. The condition of the lands was then about as described in Wood's "New England Prospect" in 1633, the year before the Hooker grant was made, viz:

"The inhabitants of Boston, for their enlargement, have taken to themselves farm houses in a place called Muddy River, two miles from their town, where is good ground, large timber, and store of marsh land and meadow. In this place they keep their swine and other cattle in the summer, whilst corn is on the ground at Boston; and bring them to town in 'winter.'"

#### ALLOTMENTS OF LAND

Among the early settlers of Boston the custom prevailed of parceling out the land to families in proportion to the number of members in each family. This was done by a given number of persons selected for the purpose—usually five or seven—who were known as "overseers of the town's occasions," or sometimes "townsmen" or "allotters." Between the years 1634 and 1640, on different occasions, the lands at Muddy River were thus divided and allotted to the citizens. Among the larger grants were 100 acres of upland and 15 acres of marsh to Thomas Leveritt, the same quantities of each to Thomas Oliver, 150 acres to

William Coulborne, 100 acres to Wentworth Day, 80 acres of upland and 20 acres of marsh to Captain Underhill, and to John Cotton "all the ground lying betweene the twoe brooks, next to William Colborne's allotment there and soe to the other end unto the shortest overcut beyond the hill toward the northwest."

Those who received "Greate Lotts" were: John Kenricke, John Leveritt, Richard Holledge, Gryffen Bowen, John Smyth, David Offley, Richard Sherman, George Curtys, Henry Messenger, Thomas Scottoe, Joshua Scottoe, William Ting, Thomas Painter, William Blanton (carpenter), Leonard Buttles (bricklayer), Robert Wing, Jacob Wilson, Mawdit Inge, William Hudson, Jr., Nathaniel Woodward, John Love, William Hibbins, Edward Grosse, Theodor Atkinsone, Edward Fletcher, Silvester Saunders, Ralph Mason, Thomas Wheeler, Thomas Alcock and Edmund Orembsy.

Isaac Grosse received fifty acres; Edward Bendall, thirty-five acres; Philemon Pormont, thirty acres; George Griggs and Nathaniel Woodward, Sr., twenty-eight acres each; William Pell and Robert Reynolds, twenty-five acres each; Thomas Flint, William Dynely, Richard Tappin and Francis Bushnall, twenty-four acres each; and Richard Fairbancke, twenty-three acres.

Twenty-acre lots were allotted to Nathaniel Heaton, Richard Bulgar, Robert Mear, Thomas Wardall, Robert Tytus and Alexander Winchester.

John Cramme, Robert Houlton, William Beamsly, Thomasyn Scottna (widow), James and Richard Fitch received sixteen acres each.

Those who received fifteen acres each in the general allotment were: George Baytes, William Blackstone, Henry Burchall and William Talmage.

Descending the scale, John Mylam and Robert Walker each received allotments of fourteen acres, though the latter was subsequently granted five acres of the marsh land.

Benjamin Ward, Raphe Route and William Wilson were awarded lots of twelve acres each.

Allotments of ten acres each were made to James DAVISSE, John Cranwell, William Courser, Robert Turner, William Denning, John Arratt, Thomas Snow and William Coulborne, the last named having previously received a grant of 150 acres.

Quite a number received allotments of eight acres, viz.: Edward Browne, James Johnson, Edmund Jackson, Elizabeth Purton (widow), William Salter, William Townsend, Henry Elkin, Jarrat Bourne, John Bigge, Alexander Becke, Robert Reade, Mathew Ines, Anthony Hawker, John Pemmerton, Anne Orembsy (widow) and John Odlie.

Thomas Savage received seven acres, Isaac Perry a "houseplott," and several grants were made to persons if there was sufficient land to be had. Edward Grubb, Benjamin Gillum, Job Davis and a few others purchased their lands outright, paying therefor ten shillings an acre.

Most of those to whom lands at Muddy River were allotted were residents of Boston, and only a few of the recipients became actual settlers. For about seventy-five years after the settlement of Boston the territory now included in the Town of Brookline was known as "Muddy River," "Muddy River Hamlet," or "Boston Commons," the last name having probably been applied because of the fact that on December 30, 1639, it was agreed that there should be set apart "500 acres at Muddy River for perpetuall Commonage to the Inhabitants there

and the towne of Boston, to begin at the outer bounds of Mr. Hibbin's Lott, and soe to goe into the Country, as the Land will afford, before any other allotments are laid outt hereafter."

During this period the inhabitants of Muddy River remained under the "care and jurisdiction of the Town of Boston," and paid taxes to the Boston authorities.

#### FIRST MOVE FOR SEPARATION

The first move on the part of the people of Muddy River for the privilege of acting independently of Boston in any way, was made on March 29, 1686, when they presented a petition to the Boston selectmen for permission to establish a school. In response to the petition "It was voted that the selectmen take this matter into consideration and inquire into the reason thereof and represent it to the next General Towne Meeting what is necessary to be done therein."

No report was made by the selectmen and after waiting for several months the inhabitants of Muddy River grew somewhat impatient. A petition asking for exemption from town rates and the privilege of establishing a school was presented to the General Court, where the records show it was disposed of as follows:

"New England:—By the President and Councill of his Majesties Territory and Dominion, Aforesaid &c.

"Wednesday, December 8th 1686.

"Present, the Honble Joseph Dudley, Esq., President; William Stoughton, Esq. Deputie Prest.; Edward Randolph, Wait Winthrop, Richard Wharton, John Usher, Bartholomew Gidney & Jonathan Tyng, Esqrs.

"In answer to the petition of ye inhabitants of Muddie River, prayinge to have libertie to erect a school &c upon the hearinge thereof, the President and Councill doe order, That henceforth the said Hamlet of Muddie River be free from Towne rates to ye Towne of Bostone, they maintaininge theire owne high wayes and poore and other publike charges ariseinge amongst themselves, And that within one yeare next comeinge they raise a school house in such place as the two next Justices of the Countrie (upon a publike hearinge of the Inhabitants of said Hamlet) shall determine as also maintaine an able readinge and writinge Master there, from and after that day, and that the Inhabitants annuallie meete to choose three men to manage theire affaires.

"EDWARD RANDOLPH, Secr.

"A true coppie as attests

"BENJAMIN BULLIVANT,

"Late Clerke of ye Councill."

At a full meeting of the inhabitants of Muddy River on January 19, 1687, the above order was accepted by a unanimous vote, and Andrew Gardner, Thomas Steadman and John White, Jr., were chosen to "manage theire affaires" for the ensuing year. Provision was also made at this meeting for the maintenance of a schoolmaster. The minutes of this meeting constitute the first entry in the Muddy River records. For about two years the people of Muddy River congratulated themselves upon the acquisition of the privilege to control their own affairs, but at a town meeting in Boston on March 16, 1689, it was "Voted, that Muddy River Inhabitants are not discharged from Bostone to be a hamlet by themselves, but stand related to Bostone as they were before the yeare 1686."

This action on the part of Boston was a direct attempt to deprive the people of Muddy River of the rights and privileges granted them by the General Court and reopened the whole question of town rates, etc. During the next few years the population of the hamlet increased and in 1698 the following petition was presented to the General Court:

"To the Hon. William Stoughton, Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts, the Honorable Council, and the Representatives in General Court assembled, 25th May, 1698:

"The humble petition of the inhabitants of Muddy-river humbly sheweth—Whereas in the year 1686, the Honorable Joseph Dudley, President, William Stoughton, Deputy President, and the Council, in answer to the petition of the inhabitants of Muddy-river, praying liberty for a school among them, &c., did order, that the Hamlet of Muddy-river be free from Town rates to the Town of Boston, and other privileges, as in said grant, on the other side, may more at large appear;

"We, your petitioners, do humbly pray that the said granted privileges may be confirmed unto said Hamlet, with the addition that the inhabitants may choose such officers amongst themselves, as may assess the inhabitants their due proportion, as may be thought sufficient and expedient for defraying such necessary charges to said school, and other things; and that one constable may be chosen, who may be sufficiently impowered to collect the rates for the County and the Hamlet; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall every pray.

"THOMAS GARDNER	} In the name	
"BENJAMIN WHITE		} of the
"ROGER ADAMS		

Upon this petition the General Court failed to take any action, or at least no record of any action can be found, and the relations between the Town of Boston and the settlement at Muddy River continued without change for about two years longer. Then, the population of the hamlet having increased to such an extent that the people felt able to support a town government of their own, decided to take such steps as might be necessary for their separation from Boston.

#### INCORPORATION OF BROOKLINE

Accordingly, on March 11, 1700, a petition signed by nearly every man resident at Muddy River, was sent to the parent town asking that they be set off as a separate district or hamlet from Boston. The petition was not favorably received by the people of Boston, for at a town meeting on the very day it was presented the following action was taken:

"Upon the Petition of the Inhabitants of Muddy River to be a District or Hamlet, separate from the Town of Boston for these reasons, following, viz., the remoteness of the situation, which renders them incapable of enjoying equal benefit and advantage with other of the Inhabitants of Publick Schooles for the instruction of their children, relief of their Poor, and Repairing of their Highways.

"Their petition being read and reasons given therein debated, It was voted in the negative, and that though they had not for some years been rated in the Town

rate, yet for the time to come, the Selectmen should vote them in the Town Tax as the other Inhabitants, and as formerly they used to be, and for their encouragement it was voted that the Selectmen should provide a schoolmaster for them to teach their children to read, write and cypher, and order him his payment out of the Town Treasury.

"A True Copie as entered with the records of the Town of Boston."

"JOSEPH PROUT, Town Clerk."

That the people of Muddy River were greatly disappointed at this reception of their petition may be easily imagined, and doubtless some ill-feeling was developed among them. Matters were allowed to drift along without change for about three years, when the inhabitants of the hamlet decided to appeal to a higher power for relief. Accordingly the following petition for presentation to the General Court was prepared and circulated for signatures:

"To His Excellency the Governor, Council and Assembly:

"The humble petition of the Inhabitants of Muddy River, Humbly Sheweth, That they are a Hamlet belonging to Boston, have been lately settled there and sometime since in the year 1686 being grown to a good number of inhabitants represented to the Government then in being, praying to be acquitted from paying duties and taxes to the Town of Boston, being then willing to bear their public charges of Bridges, Highwaies and Poor, and were accordingly then released and ordered to maintain a Reading and Writing Schoole as the order annexed will show, which accordingly we have ever since done, and now further humbly pray that being grown to a greater number of good settled inhabitants we may be allowed a separate right to have Selectmen, and all other rights belonging to a Township, which may further encourage us as we are able to settle a minister and other benefits amongst us, and we shall ever pray."

The petition was signed by Samuel Aspinwall, Thomas Gardner, Sr., Samuel Sewall, Jr., Thomas Steadman, Sr., Benjamin White, Joseph White, John Winchester, Sr., and Josiah Winchester. It came before the General Assembly on June 17, 1704, when it was ordered "That the Selectmen of Boston have a copy of this petition and be heard thereon at ye next Session of this Court." On November 1, 1704, the Council ordered "That the Selectmen of Boston bee notified to attend on Saturday morning, the fourth, current, November 4, 1704." It is not certain that the Boston selectmen obeyed the summons, probably because they were not ready to present their side of the case, and the petition was continued to the next session.

At a meeting held in the Boston Town Hall on March 12, 1705, Elisha Cook, Joseph Bridgham, Ephraim Savage, Bezour Allen and Oliver Noyes were appointed a committee "to consider and draw up what they shall think proper (on behalf of this Town) to lay before the General Court at their next session relating to a petition of sundry of the Inhabitants of Muddy River, that the said District be dismiss from the Town of Boston and be admitted to be a Town of themselves." Following is the report of that committee:

"Upon perusal of the said petition (we) observed that several sessions of the General Court have passed after the time set for the hearing thereof, and that consequently the matter then fell; however, if it be again revived by any new petition or order, we think it proper to lay before the Court the unreasonableness

of their demand, they having been hitherto supported by the Town while they were not able themselves to defray their necessary public charges, now increasing upon us and the body of ye town abounding with poor, and such as are not capable to defray, but rather greatly increase the charges for the Inhabitants of Muddy River at such a time, and being themselves now grown more oppulent and capable to be helpful to ye town, to be sent from us seems most unreasonable, and in them very ungrateful and may be a bad example to others to endeavor the like, and to cutt the town into such shreds, as will best suit themselves without any due regard to ye public Intrist, the charge of the Road upon ye neck is great and is still growing and ye petitioners and Inhabitants of Muddy River have had more benefit and do more to increase the charge of that way than all the rest of the town. Several other things might be instanced which the Selectmen are well acquainted with and we think they ought (if the General Court see cause to proceed on the petition) to pray to be heard therein."

On June 15, 1705, the petition came up in the Council and it was ordered that the selectmen of Boston be given an opportunity to be heard on the 19th. The House concurred in this action and the next mention of the matter is found in the journal of the House for June 20, 1705, when it was "Resolved that since the time of hearing of ye premises before this Court is Slipt, there should be a hearing thereof on fryday next at three of the Clock in ye afternoon, and that ye Selectmen of Boston be notified thereof."

The Council concurred and this time the selectmen of Boston appeared and submitted the following answer to the petition:

"To his Excellency, Joseph Dudley, Esq., Captain-General and Commander-in-chief, and to ye Honorable, ye Council and Assembly:

"The Answer of ye Selectmen and ye Committee of ye Town of Boston, to ye Inhabitants of Muddy River, Humbly Sheweth, That they have been as easy in this Town as they could in reason desire. That they have not urged anything in their petitions to the contrary. This Town has never called on them to support the ministry of the town as is usual in like cases in ye Country. They have not been enjoined to watchings and wardings, either stated or occasionally, which has layn heavy on ye body of the Town. That they have constantly had ye nominations of their own officers ye towne has usually confirmed. Upon ye desire and Regular motion for a Schoole in that part of ye Town, it has bin allowed them. That lately there has not been more levied on them (and not always so much) as would defray the charges incident in that Part of ye Town and when, as they mention in ye petition, it would in them in time to support the charge of a stated ministry thereby importing ye present inability, which seems a very preposterous arguing.

"The law requiring a settled ministry thereby as one qualification for a Township and some of the subscribers since ye signing have declared ye contrary Intentions. And that which makes this desire the more unreasonable is that they have hitherto been supported by ye Town, while they were not able themselves to defray ye public charges in too many instances to be enumerated. That it may be a precedent of ill consequences to ye public to divide Townships into small slips of land rendering them weak and every charge a Burden, tending to starve learning and religion out of ye countrey, especially when no reason of state requires. Ye consideration of which we submit to this honorable Court.

"We humbly offer further to this honorable Court that such a separation is contrary to ye undoubted right and interest of Boston, there being 500 acres of land common in that part of the Town, which is the Town's right, but on a separation can be of no service to the Town. That the Town is very much straightened in its present boundaries by our former too easy concessions as was that of the Neck to Dorchester, or the Lane to Newtown and Cambridge, and the whole Townshipp of Braintree, and would so much more if Muddy River so near us should be separated from the Town. Rumney Marsh, &c., would have a precedent to desire the same so that Boston would only be confined to this Isthmus of a mile long which was never thought sufficient bounds for a Townshipp, especially at this time when Boston is daily ye centre of all foreign poor, of saylors widows, and the refuge of our distressed neighbors from ye frontier who Insensibly grow upon us, so that upon the whole we hope your Excellency's honorable Court will not grant said petition."

This answer was signed by three members of the committee appointed the preceding March—Savage, Allen and Noyes—and "By order of the selectmen it was spread upon the records of the town on June 22, 1705. It is interesting now, in that it shows what a plea of poverty and hardship Boston, now the wealthiest and most populous city of New England, could make two hundred and twelve years ago. So far as the people of Muddy River were concerned, the plea fell on deaf ears, as they redoubled their efforts to bring about a separation. At the fall session of the General Court another petition was presented, to wit:

"To his Excellency, the Governor, Council and Assembly in General Court convened:

"The humble petition of the Inhabitants of Muddy River sheweth, That at a session of this honorable Court, held at Boston on 13, August, 1704, the said Inhabitants exhibited their humple petition praying that the said Muddy River might be allowed a separate Village or Peculiar, and be invested with such rights and powers as they may be enabled by themselves to manage the general affairs of said place. Which petition has been transmitted to the Selectmen of the Town of Boston, that they may consider the same; since which your humble petitioners, not having been informed of any objection made by the Town of Boston, aforesaid, we presume that there is no obstruction to our humble request made in that petition.

"Wherefore we humbly beseech your Excellency, that this honorable Court will be pleased to proceed to pass an Act for the establishing of the said place a separate Village or Peculiar, with such powers as aforesaid, and your petitioners shall ever pray."

The petition was signed by John Ackers, John Ackers, Jr., William Ackers, Eleazer Aspinwall, Samuel Aspinwall, Peter Boylston, Abram Chamberlen, Edward Devotion, John Devotion, John Ellis, Caleb Gardner, Joseph Gardner, Thomas Gardner, Thomas Gardner, Jr., John Seaver, Samuel Sewall, Jr., William Sharp, Ralph Shepard, Joshua Stedman, Thomas Stedman, Thomas Stedman, Jr., Benjamin White, Benjamin White, Jr., Joseph White, Henry Winchester, John Winchester, John Winchester, Jr., Josiah Winchester, Josiah Winchester, Jr., Thomas Woodward, and a few others whose names cannot be deciphered.

On November 2, 1705, this petition came before the House of Representatives and on the 9th that body ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

On the 10th the petition and order passed by the House were read for the first time in the Council, where the action was concurred in on the 13th. Following is the full text of the order:

"Anno Regni, Anna Regina Quarto.

"At a Great and General Court or Assembly for her Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England begun and held at Boston upon Wednesday the Thirtieth of May, 1705, and continued by several Prorogations unto Wednesday the Twenty-Fourth of October following, and then mett Tuesday November 13, 1705, In Council:

"The Order passed by the Representatives upon the Petition of the Inhabitants of Muddy River, a Hamlet of Boston read on Saturday last, viz.:

"Ordered, That the Prayer of the Petition be Granted and the Powers and Priviledges of a Township be given to the Inhabitants of the Land commonly known by the Name of Muddy River, The Town to be called Brookline, who are hereby enjoyned to build a Meeting House and Obtain an Able Orthodox Minister according to the Direction of the Law, to be Settled amongst them within the space of Three Years next coming. Provided, That all Common Lands belonging to the Town of Boston lying within the bounds of the said Muddy River not disposed of or allotted out shall still remain to the proprietors of the said Lands.

"Which Order being again read was concurred And is consented to.

"JOSEPH DUDLEY."

#### FIRST ELECTION

The first town meeting in Brookline was held in the old school house on Monday, March 4, 1706, and the first thing to come before the meeting was the election of town officers. Thomas Gardner, Samuel Aspinwall, John Winchester, Josiah Winchester and Samuel Sewall were chosen as selectmen; Josiah Winchester, Sr, clerk; Samuel Aspinwall, Joseph Gardner and Roger Adams, assessors (Mr. Adams declined to serve and John Winchester was chosen in his place); Daniel Harris and Samuel Clark, tithingmen; Eleazer Aspinwall, Benjamin White, Jr., and Robert Harris, surveyors of the highways; John Winchester, Jr., and Edward Devotion, fence viewers; Thomas Stedman, Jr., and Daniel Harris, overseers of the common lands; Nathaniel Holland and William Sharp, field drivers.

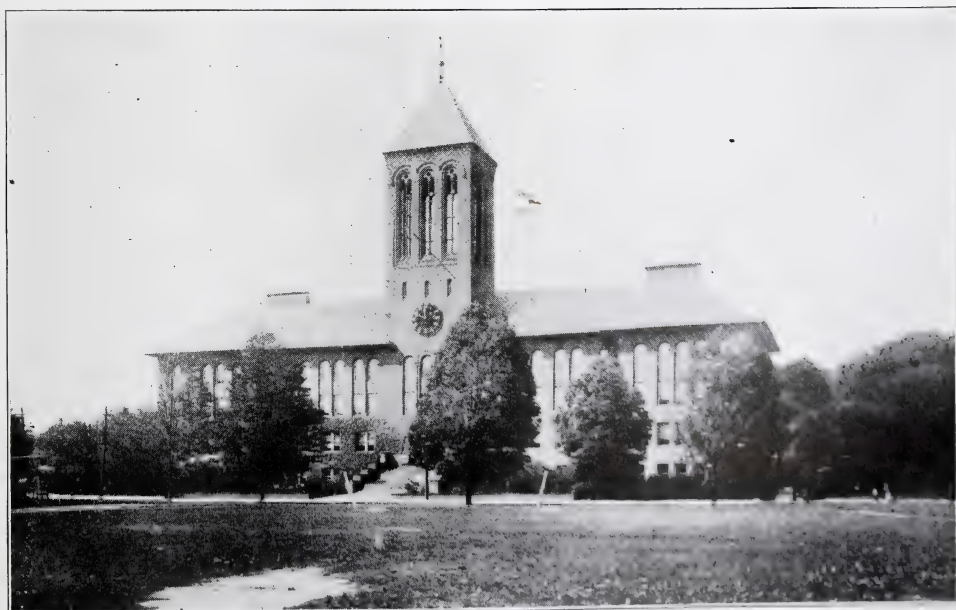
At the same meeting it was voted that a burying place should be established in the town and that it should be "on a spot of land on the south side of the Hill in Mr. Cotton's farm pointing between the two Roads if it can be attained." The meeting declined to take any action toward the erection of a meeting house and the settling of a minister as required by the organic act, but voted that twelve pounds be levied by tax upon the people of the town "for repairing the school house and the support of the school for the present year."

#### ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES

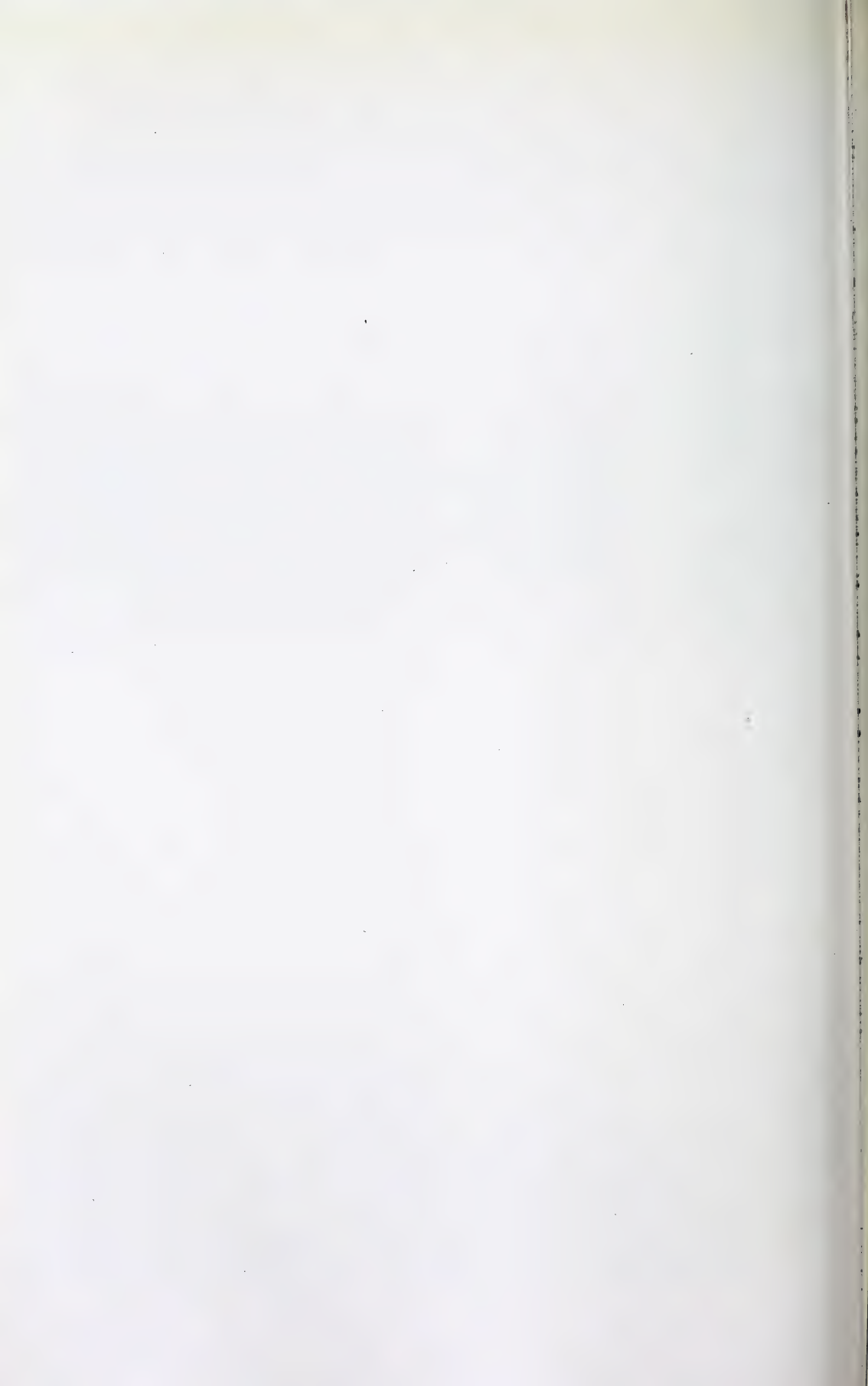
When the Town of Brookline was established, the little stream known as Smelt Brook formed the boundary line between the new town and Brighton, and it is said that from this fact the town of Brookline derives its name. Early in the



TOWN HALL, BROOKLINE



HIGH SCHOOL, BROOKLINE



year 1825, Josiah Quincy, then mayor of Boston, and John Robinson, chairman of the board of selectmen of Brookline, joined in a petition to the General Court asking that the boundary line between Boston and Brookline be established as follows:

"Beginning at a point (marked 'a' on the annexed plan) 1,123 feet distant westerly from the westerly side of the filling sluices of the Boston and Roxbury mill-dam; thence running northwesterly from said point 'a' at an angle of  $115^{\circ}$  from the mill-dam until it strikes the center of the channel of Charles River; and also running from said point 'a' southerly at an angle of  $103^{\circ} 40'$  until it strikes the center of the channel of Muddy River, at a point where the respective boundaries of Boston, Brookline and Roxbury meet each other."

The petition was granted by the passage of a bill which was approved on February 22, 1825. Section 1 of the act established the boundary line as described in the petition, and Section 2 modified the boundary lines between the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to conform to the new line as given in the preceding section.

On November 23, 1869, James Bartlett, Thomas Parsons, William J. Griggs, Edward S. Philbrick and Horace James, selectmen of Brookline, and James F. C. Hyde, George E. Bridges, D. C. Sanger, Willard Marey, Joseph Walker and Thomas Rice, Jr., selectmen of Newton, acting under authority conferred upon them by the General Court, fixed the boundary line between those two towns as it exists at the present time.

The boundary line between Brookline and West Roxbury was established on December 2, 1869, by the selectmen of the two towns, viz.: James Bartlett, Thomas Parsons, William J. Griggs and Edward Philbrick on behalf of Brookline, and Aristides Talbot, Charles G. Macintosh, John E. Blackemore, Nathan B. Prescott and Jeremiah E. Williams on behalf of West Roxbury.

On the same day the above named selectmen of Brookline and B. F. Pierce and H. W. Baxter of Brighton fixed the boundary line between the two towns. The line as established by the selectmen was made legal by an act approved on June 18, 1870.

#### TOWN HALL

The early town meetings of Brookline were held in the old school house. The first mention of a town house to be found in the records is in the minutes of the meeting of May 10, 1821, when it was "Voted, that the Town build a two-story building, the basement to be entirely above ground, that the building be of wood 48 by 28 feet, and that the town treasurer be authorized to borrow a sum of money sufficient to complete said building."

Some delay was evidently experienced in the erection of the building, as the records show that "On Saturday evening, January 1, 1825, the New Town Hall was dedicated by Prayer and Sacred Musick." On that occasion John Robinson presented a chandelier for lighting the hall. On August 17, 1843, the town hall was ordered to be remodeled for a high school building, which was done at a cost of \$281.67, and on November 13, 1843, the following was adopted by a town meeting:

"Whereas, in consequence of our recent appropriation of the Town Hall to

the use of the public high school, and of the destruction of the Engine House by fire the past summer, it is both expedient and necessary that measures be taken at this time for providing a new Town Hall and store house for the Fire Engine; and that a committee of five citizens, selected from different parts of the Town, be now appointed to look out and decide upon some suitable location, ascertain the price for which it can be obtained, procure from an architect a plan of building suitable for the accommodation of the Town, get an estimate of the whole expense, and make a report of their proceedings to our annual meeting in March next, and that Samuel Philbrick, Abijah W. Goddard, Charles Stearns, Jr., Daniel Sanderson and Timothy Corey constitute said committee."

The report of this committee is dated January 30, 1844, and states that the committee had obtained the refusal of three sites. The town voted to purchase the lot fronting on Washington Street 205 feet and 180 feet deep from James Bartlett, for the sum of \$935.82, and Samuel Philbrick, Bela Stoddard and Charles Stearns, Jr., were appointed a building committee to superintend the erection of the new hall. The building was dedicated on the evening of October 13, 1845, with music and a historical sketch of the town by Rev. John Pierce. The total cost of lot and building was \$6,285.32.

Edward Atkinson, Charles D. Head, Charles U. Cotting, Alfred Kenrick, William S. Spencer, Amos A. Lawrence and Abijah W. Goddard were appointed a committee on March 18, 1867, "to consider the expediency of adding accommodations to the present Town Hall for a reading room and library." No report from this committee can be found, but the members apparently did not regard the project with favor, for on March 28, 1870, the following committee was appointed to consider the subject of a new town hall: William A. Wellman, Charles U. Cotting, John C. Abbott, Charles W. Scudder, Augustine Shurtleff, William Aspinwall, William K. Melcher, William Lincoln and M. P. Kennard. The committee reported in favor of the new building and the town voted an appropriation of \$100,000, which was placed at the disposal of the committee. Fifty thousand dollars were subsequently added to the appropriation and bonds were issued for the whole amount. S. J. F. Thayer's plans were accepted and bids were advertised for, which resulted in the contract for the masonry being awarded to Adams & Barstow of Boston, and for the carpenter work to William K. Melcher of Brookline. The corner-stone was laid on May 23, 1871, and the structure, which occupies the site of the old town hall, was dedicated on February 22, 1873, with appropriate ceremonies, Robert C. Winthrop delivering the historical address. At a special meeting held on the 27th, William Aspinwall, Charles D. Head and William A. Wellman were appointed a committee "to compile and print the proceedings, speeches," etc. of the dedication. The total cost of the building was \$150,010.

#### WATERWORKS

At the annual meeting held on March 20, 1865, it was voted "That the representative from this town in the General Court be requested and instructed to use his utmost endeavors to have inserted in the 'Bill to authorize the City of Boston to build an additional reservoir,' now before the House of Representatives, a provision that the city may distribute the waters of Lake Cochituate through the

said Town of Brookline, and shall make and establish hydrants therein in the same manner it now may throughout the City of Boston and if the Legislature shall, upon a respectful request therefor refuse to make such provision, that our representative be instructed to remonstrate and protest, in behalf of the inhabitants of Brookline, against so much of the bill as authorizes the City of Boston to lay pipes through the streets of Brookline."

This was the first move on the part of the people of Brookline to secure a supply of water for the town. The Legislature failed to grant the request and the next mention of the subject in the town records is in the minutes of the meeting of December 7, 1869 when Amos A. Lawrence offered a resolution "That George M. Dexter, Francis P. Denney and E. C. Cabot be a committee to ascertain whether it is expedient to purchase the property of the Jamaica Pond Aqueduct Company, or any other supply of water, for the town, and to report at a future meeting to be called by the chairman of the committee."

The resolution failed of adoption and nothing further was done until the meeting of May 2, 1871, which voted that the moderator appoint a committee of five to take into consideration the subject of supplying the town with water and report at a future meeting. George F. Homer, the moderator, appointed John W. Candler, William Aspinwall, Amos A. Lawrence, Charles D. Head and Edward S. Philbrick, and the meeting voted to add Mr. Homer to the committee. On January 23, 1872, Edward S. Philbrick reported for the committee three plans that had been considered: 1st, to obtain a supply of water from the City of Boston; 2nd, to erect waterworks in connection with the Town of West Roxbury; 3d, to construct independent works on the part of Brookline. The first proposed method failed because the water board of Boston reported that the city had no water to spare, the second also failed because it was learned that the Charles River, from which it was proposed to take the supply for Brookline and West Roxbury, was claimed by the City of Boston. With regard to the third method the committee recommended the purchase of the springs upon the land of the Brookline Land Company, which showed an average daily capacity of about three hundred and fifty thousand gallons. The committee reported that nine acres of the land could be bought for \$50,000, and estimated the cost of the works at \$165,968. The report was accepted, the committee was continued with instructions to confer with the Jamaica Pond Aqueduct Company.

On March 26, 1872, the committee reported that the City of Boston was applying to the General Court for permission to take the waters of the Charles and Sudbury rivers and recommended that the selectmen of Brookline be instructed to have a bill introduced allowing Brookline to take water from the Charles River. Later at the same meeting Mr. Philbrick reported that the city had withdrawn its application. The instructions to the selectmen were then changed by a resolution setting forth that as Boston had for twenty-five years used the streets of Brookline for water mains, the selectmen ask the General Court to order Boston to supply the town with water, otherwise to pass a bill giving the town permission to use the waters of the Charles River. On the 10th of April following the selectmen and committee presented a petition to the General Court asking that the town be allowed to take water from the Charles River. A bill to that effect was passed and was accepted by a town meeting on May 7, 1872, by a vote of 185 to 90.

At the annual meeting on March 31, 1873, Charles K. Kirby, Charles H. Drew and William Aspinwall were elected as the first board of water commissioners, and on October 28, 1873, the town passed an ordinance appropriating \$400,000 for the construction of the works. Under this ordinance the plant was commenced. Subsequently, "scrip" to the amount of \$75,000 was issued to complete the waterworks, but even this addition was insufficient, and on April 21, 1876, it was voted to borrow \$25,000 in addition to the \$475,000 previously appropriated. By the act of November 8, 1888, the town was authorized "to issue notes, scrip or certificates of debt, to be denominated 'Brookline Water Scrip,' to an amount not exceeding \$500,000, in addition to the \$700,000 which said town has been heretofore authorized to issue." With the funds thus provided the capacity of the plant was increased to 3,000,000 gallons daily, giving Brookline one of the best waterworks systems in the state.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first mention of anything in the nature of protection against fire to be found in the town records is in the minutes of the town meeting of March 17, 1788, when "Col. Aspinwall and Lieut. Croft were chosen Firewards." Some time after this (the records are not plain in the matter) an arrangement was made with the Town of Roxbury to establish jointly a system of fire protection. In the records of the town meeting of March 9, 1795, is the entry: "Voted to pay one-half the expences of the Repairs of the Fire Engine in futer." Two years later, May 18, 1797, it was "Voted that this Town will beare one-half the expences of the new Waggon for conveying the Fire Engine." This partnership arrangement with Roxbury continued for a number of years. In 1828 a new engine called the "Norfolk" was purchased for \$475, of which Brookline paid \$325 and Roxbury \$150. On April 6, 1829, it was "Voted, That a committee be chosen to see what amount the Town of Roxbury have allowed for the purchase of Hose and Buckets for the New Engine Norfolk, and that this Town meet them in any expense not exceeding Fifty Dollars."

In 1842 the "Norfolk" was sold for \$297.40 and the money was divided between the two towns in proportion to what each had paid fourteen years before. The Town of Brookline then established a department of its own. An engine and a supply of hose were purchased and on May 23, 1855, the sum of \$1,500 was appropriated for the erection of a hook and ladder house. In the spring of 1864 the question of purchasing a steam fire engine was referred to the selectmen, who reported that it was "inexpedient to purchase at present, owing to a scarcity of accommodations for obtaining a supply of water."

In 1871 the office of fireward was abolished and the selectmen authorized to appoint a board of fire engineers "in conformity with the General Statutes." The same year an appropriation of \$14,000 was made for a new engine house on Washington Street, to take the place of the old one, and the pay of the department members was increased. Two years later A. Kenrick, Jr., Charles D. Head and J. T. Waterman were appointed a committee "to purchase and equip three steam fire engines." The committee reported in favor of purchasing but one engine, which was obtained and placed in commission at a cost of \$6,950. Three new reservoirs, in addition to two previously constructed, were ordered built.

After the waterworks were finished, Charles K. Kirby, Horace James, A. Kenrick, Jr., J. T. Waterman and Marshall Russell were appointed a committee "to see if the steam fire engine could be dispensed with," but it was finally decided to keep the engine ready for use in emergencies.

On the last day of April, 1877, the selectmen were instructed to "purchase and place a hose carriage at Longwood, if there is enough left of the appropriation for the Fire Department for that purpose." Longwood is a suburb in the northwesterly part of the town, where a hose company had been organized some time before the above action was taken by the town meeting. On March 20, 1882, an appropriation of \$10,500 was made to purchase "a horse and chemical engine for Longwood." The development of the department since that time has been in keeping with the growth of the town, so that Brookline now is well provided with trained men and modern equipment for the extinguishment of fires.

#### PUNCH BOWL TAVERN

In the fall of 1640 a bridge was ordered to be built at Muddy River and for many years after that time the present Washington Street was one of the principal highways leading into Boston. A great many teams from the country west of the city passed over the road and a stopping place became a necessity. To supply this demand John Ellis built the "Punch Bowl Tavern." The original building was a two story frame, with hipped roof, to which additions were made from time to time by purchasing old houses in Boston and removing them to Brookline to form portions of the tavern. Harriet F. Woods, in her *Historical Sketches of Brookline*, says the house was "a curious medley of old rooms of all sorts and sizes, connected together in a nondescript manner and presenting an architectural style, which, if we might apply a geological term to it, we should call a conglomerate."

The house was located near the corner of Pearl Street. Its sign—an oval board suspended from a high red post—depicted a large bowl and ladle under a lemon tree laden with fruit, some of which lay around the bowl as though fallen from the tree. A bench ran along the front under a porch, where the "sages" of Brookline met to settle the weighty problems of the day. The selectmen of the town used to have annual suppers in this old tavern. About 1833 the old house was purchased by Isaac Thayer and torn down.

An old house on the corner of Washington Street and Brookline Avenue, where the offices of the Brookline Gas Company were afterward located, was then opened as a tavern under the sign of the "Punch Bowl," but it had none of the patronage or prestige of its predecessor. Its patronage was local and inclined to be of the disreputable class. On March 25, 1844, the Brookline Town meeting adopted the following resolutions regarding this tavern:

"Whereas, The recent painful and distressing occurrence in the death of Robert Noyes from Ardent Spirits, and by the verdict of the jury his death was caused 'by liquor obtained at the Punch Bowl and elsewhere,' and

"Whereas, The location of the Punch Bowl Tavern renders it identified in the weal or woe of the Town of Brookline, and by its indiscriminate sale of Ardent Spirits is more clearly identified as injurious to the town, producing consequences that call loudly on the friends of good order and sobriety, therefore,

"Resolved, That this meeting view the untimely death of Robert Noyes from

intoxication with pain and sorrow, and that as good citizens we will do all in our power to prevent a like disastrous occurrence.

"Resolved, That a committee of twenty be appointed to repair in a body to the Punch Bowl Tavern and under sanction and authority of the town remonstrate with Mr. J. Sprague, or whoever may have charge, against the indiscriminate sale of intoxicating liquors."

The committee was composed of Samuel A. Walker, A. H. Clapp, Daniel Sanderson, David Coolidge, Thomas Griggs, Otis Withington, Moses Jones, Samuel Goddard, Hugh M. Sanborn, James Bartlett, Caleb Craft, Jr., Joshua M. Blanchard, William Hardy, Charles Stearns, Jr., A. W. Goddard, Timothy Corey, James Leeds, Harrison Fay, Samuel Craft and Thomas Kendall. The crusade thus commenced resulted in the closing of the house a little later.

#### BROOKLINE OF THE PRESENT

Brookline is the wealthiest town in Norfolk County and second in population, being exceeded in the latter respect only by Quincy. In 1915 the assessed valuation of property was \$158,297,618. The population in 1910 was 27,792, and by the state census of 1915 it was 33,490, a gain of 5,698 in five years. The town has three banks with aggregate deposits nearly ten millions of dollars, two weekly newspapers, gas and electric light, well paved streets, electric railway lines to Boston and the neighboring towns, two lines of steam railway (the Boston & Albany and the New York, New Haven & Hartford), a fine public library, an excellent public school system and a number of beautiful church edifices. But it is as a residential town that Brookline stands preëminent. It is related that many years ago a visiting preacher, in the course of his sermon, said: "I know not, my friends, how you can help being Christians, for you already live in paradise." The present inhabitants have kept up the reputation established by their ancestors. The broad, well kept lawns, the handsome homes and shade trees all combine to make Brookline one of the most pleasant towns in the Old Bay State.

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE TOWN OF CANTON

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND DESCRIPTION—EARLY HISTORY—CANTON INCORPORATED—THE PETITION AND ITS SIGNERS—FIRST TOWN MEETING—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—GAS WORKS—POSTOFFICE—THE DOTY TAVERN—EARLY ORDINANCES—CANTON IN 1917.

A little southeast of the geographical center of Norfolk County is situated the Town of Canton. On the north and northwest it is bounded by the Neponset River, which separates it from the towns of Norwood, Westwood and Dedham; on the northeast by Milton and Randolph; southerly by Stoughton; and on the southwest by Sharon. The surface is rolling and in some places hilly, and evidences of glacial action are to be seen in the ponds, of which there are several in the town. Reservoir Pond is located near the center and a little southeast of it is a smaller body of water called Muddy Pond. Ponkapoag Pond is on the line between Canton and Randolph, while in the southern part are Ice, Ames, Forge, Factory and a few smaller ponds. The Pequin River flows into Reservoir Pond, Mill Brook into Ames Pond, and there are a number of smaller streams, so that all parts of the town are well watered.

#### EARLY HISTORY

The territory now comprising the Town of Canton was originally a part of Dorchester. When the latter town (at first called Mattapan) was created in 1630 it embraced only the little district between Boston and the Neponset River, extending to the Massachusetts Bay on the east. In 1636 the General Court granted to the Dorchester Plantation some six thousand acres south of the Neponset. This was known as the "Unquety Grant" and is now included in the Town of Milton. The next year another grant was made to the town, "being all the territory not before granted between Dedham and the Plymouth Colony." In this "New Grant" were included the present towns of Canton, Stoughton and Sharon, and portions of Wrentham and Foxborough. On December 15, 1715, this territory was organized as Dorchester South Precinct. Its dismemberment began in 1724, when the southwest part was added to the Town of Wrentham, which had been incorporated in 1673. Stoughton was incorporated on December 22, 1726, and included what are now Stoughton, Canton, Sharon and a large part of Foxborough. On July 2, 1740, the Dorchester Second Precinct was established, constituting what are now the towns of Sharon and Foxborough, leaving Stoughton as the old Dorchester South Precinct. Canton then remained a part of Stoughton for fifty-seven years longer.

## CANTON INCORPORATED

On March 9, 1795, the inhabitants of the First Parish of Stoughton held a meeting at the parish church. The thirteenth article to come before the meeting was "to see if the parish will petition the General Court to be set off as a separate town." The vote was in the affirmative and Elijah Dunbar, Nathan Crane, Joseph Bemis, Benjamin Gill and Elijah Crane were appointed a committee to prepare the petition. It was further voted that Colonel Gill, Capt. Elijah Crane and Col. Nathan Crane be a committee to present the petition to the General Court. Following is the petition:

"To the Honourable Senate and House of Representatives of the Com'th of Mass'tts, in General Court assembled:

"The Petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the first Parish in the Town of Stoughton, in the County of Norfolk in said Com'th, humbly sheweth that the local situation of said Town of Stoughton is very singular, being near eleven miles in length & about four Miles in breadth, as may appear by a Plan thereof, and also that there is a large body of land laying upon and contiguous to the line between the North and South Parishes, which is and always will be incapable of any valuable improvement, which throws the bulk of the Inhabitants of said Parishes at a great distance from each other, which peculiar circumstance makes it always inconvenient & sometimes impracticable for the Inhabitants of either of said Parishes to attend Town Meeting as they have been usually held for some years past, by reason of the great distance of way & sometimes impassable roads.

"Therefore your Petitioners humbly pray that the lands within said first Parish & the Inhabitants thereof (except those persons and their property that wish to remain with the Town of Stoughton) may be incorporated into a Distinct and separate Town. And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray."

The petition was dated April 17, 1795, and was signed by the following residents of the first parish: Thomas Allen, Dudley Bailey, Henry Bailey, Israel Bailey, Moses Baker, Joseph Bemis, William Bent, Dan Billing, Isaac Billing, John Billing, Jonathan Billing, Nathan Billing, Nathaniel Billing, Peter Billing, Samuel Billing, Jacob Billings, Joseph Billings, Stephen Billings, Adam Blackman, Adam Blackman, Jr., George Blackman, John Blackman, Samuel Blackman, Stephen Blake, Benjamin Bussey, Samuel Canterbury, John Capen, Samuel Capen, Joseph Chandler, Calvin Crane, Elijah Crane, Elijah Crane, 2nd, Henry Crane, Jarathiel Crane, Nathan Crane, Silas Crane, William Crane, George Crossman, Lemuel Davenport, Enoch Dickerman, Edward Downs, Oliver Downs, Elijah Dunbar, John Dunlop, Elijah Endicott, James Endicott, Jonathan Farrington, Charles Fenno, Elijah Fenno, Abel Fisher, Ezekiel Fisher, Lemuel Fisher, Nathaniel Fisher, Thomas French, Benjamin Gill, Elijah Gill, John Gill, Samuel Gooch, Richard Gridley, David Hartwell, Elisha Hawes, Joseph Henry, Judah Henry, Joses Hill, Nathaniel Hill, Ebenezer Holmes, Comfort Hoyton, Ephraim Hunt, Ezekiel Johnson, Ephraim Jones, George Jordan, John Kenney, John Kenney, Jr., Nathaniel Kenney, Fisher Kingsbury, Rodolpis Kinsley, Silas Kinsley, Enoch Leonard, Uriah Leonard, Benjamin Lewis, James H. Lewis, Laban Lewis, Benjamin Lyon, Archibald McKendry, William McKendry, John Madden, Luther May, Henry Morse, Henry Morse, Jr., John Morse, Samuel Morse, Samuel Morse, Jr., Nathaniel Pitt, Abel Puffer, Elijah Puffer, John Puffer, James Reed,



PAUL REVERE HOUSE, CANTON



HIGH SCHOOL, CANTON



Michael Shaller, Nathaniel Shepard, Oliver Shepard, Thomas Shepard, William Shepard, Ephraim Smith, James Smith, Lemuel Smith, Redmon Spurr, Joseph Stearns, George Stone, Seth Strobbridge, Samuel Strobbridge, Benjamin Sylvester, David Talbot, John Tant, John Tant, Jr., Lemuel Tant, Peter Thayer, Jr., Josiah Tilden, Nahaniel Tilden, Benjamin Tucker, Daniel Tucker, James Tucker, John Tucker, Samuel Tucker, Samuel Tucker, Jr., Simeon Tucker, Amos Upham, Samuel Wales, Abel Wentworth, Arunah Wentworth, Benjamin Wentworth, Elijah Wentworth, Oliver Wentworth, Paul Wentworth, Seth Wentworth, John Wentworth, Nathaniel Wentworth, Samuel Wheeler, William Wheeler, Lemuel Whiting, Nathaniel Whiting, Philip Whiting, Richard Wild, Jonathan Withington.

The petition was presented to the General Court on June 11, 1795, by Benjamin Gill, Elijah Crane and Nathan Crane, the committee appointed for that purpose. Stoughton appointed a committee, consisting of James Pope, Samuel Talbot, Joseph Richards and Samuel Shepard, to oppose this petition. Among the arguments advanced by the Stoughton committee was the fact that the petition was signed by one hundred and forty-three persons, when there were but one hundred and forty legal voters in the parish. The whole question was postponed until the next session of the General Court. On January 20, 1796, Stoughton presented a remonstrance signed by Lemuel Drake and one hundred and sixty-nine others. This gave the petitioners a chance to retaliate, by showing that the remonstrance contained fifteen more names than there were legal voters in the second parish, and that several of the names thereon were those of residents of the first parish, who had previously signed the petition. On June 10, 1796, the committee of the first parish and that of the Town of Stoughton agreed that the matter should be referred to a special committee, composed of Senator Seth Bullard, Representative Joseph Hewins of Sharon, and Judge Bullock of Rehoboth. Acting under instructions from the General Court, this committee visited Stoughton and spent several days in looking over the town, hearing arguments pro and con, and on September 3, 1796, made a report in favor of granting the prayer of the petitioners. The report was accepted and on February 23, 1797, the act incorporating the Town of Canton was approved.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

Thomas Crane, a justice of the peace, issued his warrant on February 24, 1797, to Laban Lewis, requiring him to warn the legal voters to assemble at the meeting house in Canton on the 6th of March "at one of the clock P. M., then and there to choose all such officers as towns are required by law to elect." At the meeting held in pursuance of this warrant, Elijah Dunbar was chosen moderator; Elijah Crane, Benjamin Tucker and Nathan Crane were chosen selectmen and assessors; Elijah Crane, clerk; Joseph Bemis, treasurer. No further business was transacted at this meeting.

#### TOWN HALL

For many years after the town was incorporated the town meetings were held in the First Parish meeting house and the different officials had their offices at their residences or places of business. Then the meeting place was changed to

the Baptist Church at Canton Center, and when that denomination erected a new house of worship at South Canton in 1837 the old one was purchased by the town for \$650. It was a small building, but it was Canton's first town house and the public business was transacted there for more than forty years.

At the annual town meeting in April, 1878, a committee, consisting of one member from each of the school districts, was appointed to select a location and procure plans for the erection of a new town hall. The committee was composed of William Horton, Elisha Horton, Frank M. Ames, Ellis Tucker, George E. Downes, Thomas Loneragan and James S. Shepard. On June 17, 1878, the committee reported and after some discussion it was decided to locate the new hall on the corner of Washington and Depot streets, where Elijah A. Morse offered to donate the ground for a site. Frank M. Ames, James S. Shepard, Elisha Horton, Edward R. Eager and Joseph W. Wattles were appointed a committee to take a deed of the land in behalf of the town, and to select a plan from some of those submitted to that meeting. The design submitted by Stephen C. Earle, an architect of Boston, was selected and the same committee was continued to superintend the erection of the building, "to be known as Memorial Hall."

The structure is 62 by 101 feet in dimensions, two stories high, with basement under the entire building. The foundation walls and the steps at the main entrances are of Concord granite. The walls of the superstructure are of brick, laid in black mortar, and the trimmings are of Longmeadow freestone. On the first floor are the offices of the clerk, treasurer, selectmen, etc., and a large fireproof vault for the safekeeping of the public records. For about twenty years the public library also occupied quarters on this floor. In the main corridor are the memorial tablets, bearing the names of the Canton soldiers who sacrificed their lives upon their country's altar in the War of the Rebellion. These tablets were presented to the town by Elijah A. Morse. Over the door to the corridor is the inscription: "Erected to commemorate the patriotism of the soldiers of Canton, who fell in defence of the Union in the War of the Rebellion," and over the tablets is a transom running the full width, in the center of which are the dates "1861-1865," with the motto: "It is sweet and honorable to die for one's country." On the second floor is a public hall 58 by 67 feet, with a large stage at one end. The seating capacity of this hall—main floor and gallery—is about eight hundred, though on special occasions the doors between the anterooms and the stage can be opened, making room for over one thousand.

At the time it was voted to erect a new hall, an appropriation of \$31,000 was made to pay for the erection of the building and the improvements of the grounds. The actual cost, including the expenses of the dedicatory ceremonies, was \$30,961.12, leaving a balance of \$38.88, which was turned back into the town treasury. On October 30, 1879, the people turned out in large numbers to be present at the dedication of their new hall. The address on that occasion was delivered by Charles Endicott and short speeches were made by a number of prominent men, among whom were Governor Talbot, Secretary of State Peirce, Charles Adams, ex-treasurer of state, and Elijah A. Morse, who donated the ground upon which the building is situated. In 1916 the selectmen awarded a contract to Martin F. Burke to install a new heating plant at a cost of \$3,500.

## WATERWORKS

The Canton Waterworks were established in 1887 and were paid for by a bond issue, of which the sum of \$59,000 was outstanding on January 1, 1917. In their twenty-ninth annual report, for the year ending on December 31, 1916, the board of water commissioners—Michael F. Ward, James A. O'Leary and Walter S. Draper—give the total cost of the works up to that time as \$335,258.37. During the year 1916 a new standpipe was erected at Ponkapoag at a cost of \$10,359, and \$905.78 was expended in repairing and painting the old one. The sources of supply are Henry's Springs at Springdale, and the State Board of Health has pronounced the water to be of excellent quality. During the twenty-nine years since the works were first completed the mains have been extended, until at the close of 1916 there were over thirty miles in use. The number of gallons pumped in 1916 was 110,198,000. The report for that year shows 251 hydrants and nearly twelve hundred customers.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

In the beginning Canton's fire department differed but little from that of the other towns of Norfolk County—a volunteer company and a hand fire engine that could cope with fires of moderate magnitude, but were powerless against great conflagrations. As the town grew in importance and the property valuation increased proportionately, the people were not slow to recognize the necessity of better means of extinguishing fires. After the waterworks were built in 1887, regular hose companies were organized and a number of men paid by the town were kept constantly on duty. In 1895 a fire alarm system was installed. At the annual meeting in 1915 it was voted to purchase two auto combination trucks and the selectmen were instructed to carry out the order. Ten companies submitted bids on the apparatus, but the board accepted that of the Kissel Kar Company, which offered to furnish the two trucks for \$6,500. One of these trucks was installed at the Central Fire Station and the other at Ponkapoag. The latter answers all fire alarms at Canton Corner.

At the close of the year 1916 the board of fire engineers was composed of Frederic P. Drake, chief, Ralph C. Crowell and Owen Galligan. In their annual report they give the equipment as one steam fire engine, two motor combination trucks, and three hose companies, each stationed in a house of its own. All members of the department were placed under civil service by a vote of the annual town meeting on March 6, 1916. The appropriation for that year was \$4,800, exclusive of the amount paid for the two new trucks ordered the preceding year. During the year 1916 the department answered sixteen calls, in which the value of property involved was over forty thousand dollars, but the loss was only \$5,280, fully covered by insurance. No better evidence is necessary as to the efficiency of the department.

## GAS WORKS

Early in the year 1916 a public meeting was held in Lower Memorial Hall to consider the question of granting a franchise to the Brockton Gas Light

Company to furnish the town with gas. It was the sense of the meeting that the franchise should be granted and the board of selectmen was instructed accordingly. The board then awarded the franchise on a basis of \$1.40 per 1,000 cubic feet of gas for the term of four years, with a reduction of five cents every two years thereafter until a minimum price of \$1.20 is reached, "or fifteen cents in excess of the then prevailing price in the City of Brockton."

On April 25, 1917, ground was broken at the junction of the boundary lines of Canton, Stoughton and Sharon. The board of selectmen—Joseph A. Murphy, Ernest Guild and Thomas D. Mullin—the members of the Canton Board of Trade, which was the first to advocate gas, and a large number of the town's citizens were present. J. B. Anderson made a short address, in which he outlined the growth of Canton and declared the event to be a fitting one in commemoration of the town's 120th anniversary. Chairman Murphy, of the selectmen, Postmaster John J. Haverty, George H. Priest, representing the gas company, and others made short talks.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in Canton was established in the northern part of the town, but just when, or who was the first postmaster cannot be ascertained. The records of the office date back only to the close of the Civil war. Rufus Wood was appointed postmaster in 1866. He was succeeded in turn by Fred E. Holmes, Thomas F. Lyons, Fred E. Holmes, Bartholomew Doody, Emery Britton, Francis D. Dunbar and the present postmaster (1917), John J. Haverty. The office now employs the postmaster, assistant postmaster, one clerk, four local and one rural carriers. In April, 1916, the postoffice at Ponkapoag was made a sub-station of the Canton office, which is now the only one in the town. Formerly there were two rural routes, but these have been consolidated and in June, 1917, Canton enjoyed the distinction of having the only motor rural route in the State of Massachusetts. Free delivery was inaugurated in 1911. The annual receipts of the office amount to about fourteen thousand dollars, and the postal savings department carries deposits of over twenty-eight thousand dollars.

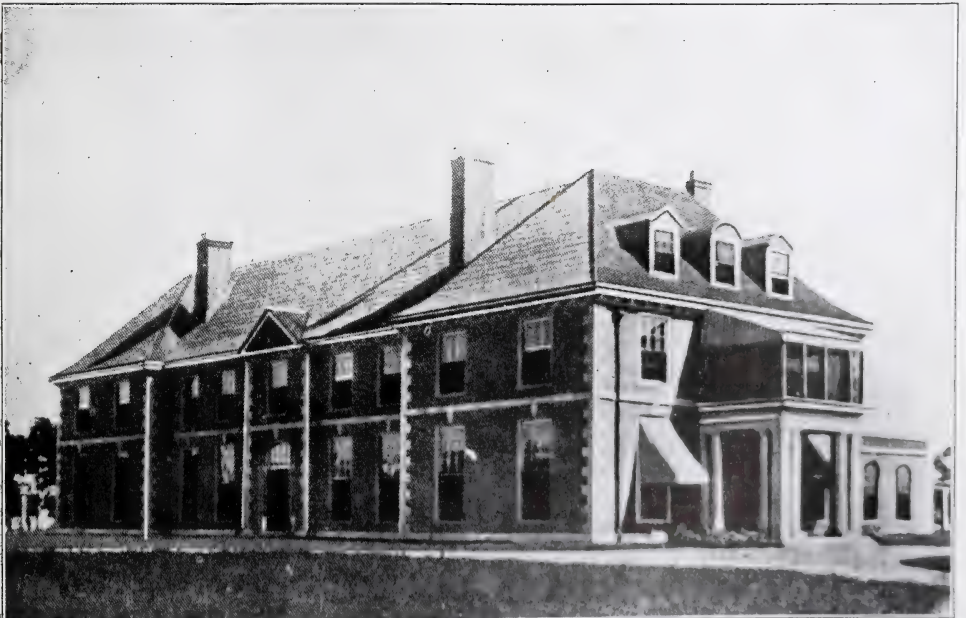
#### THE DOTY TAVERN

For many years there stood a little south of the base of the Blue Hill a quaint old building, two stories high, with a large attic under its gambrel roof and two large stone chimneys. It was built by John Shepard early in the Eighteenth Century and kept by him as a tavern in 1726. At the time of the Revolution it was conducted by Col. Thomas Doty, better known as "Tom," of whom it was said "He kept the best viands and could mix the best glass of grog of any landlord in all the country around." Under his management the house became widely known as "Doty's Tavern," the location of which was known to every stage driver in Eastern Massachusetts.

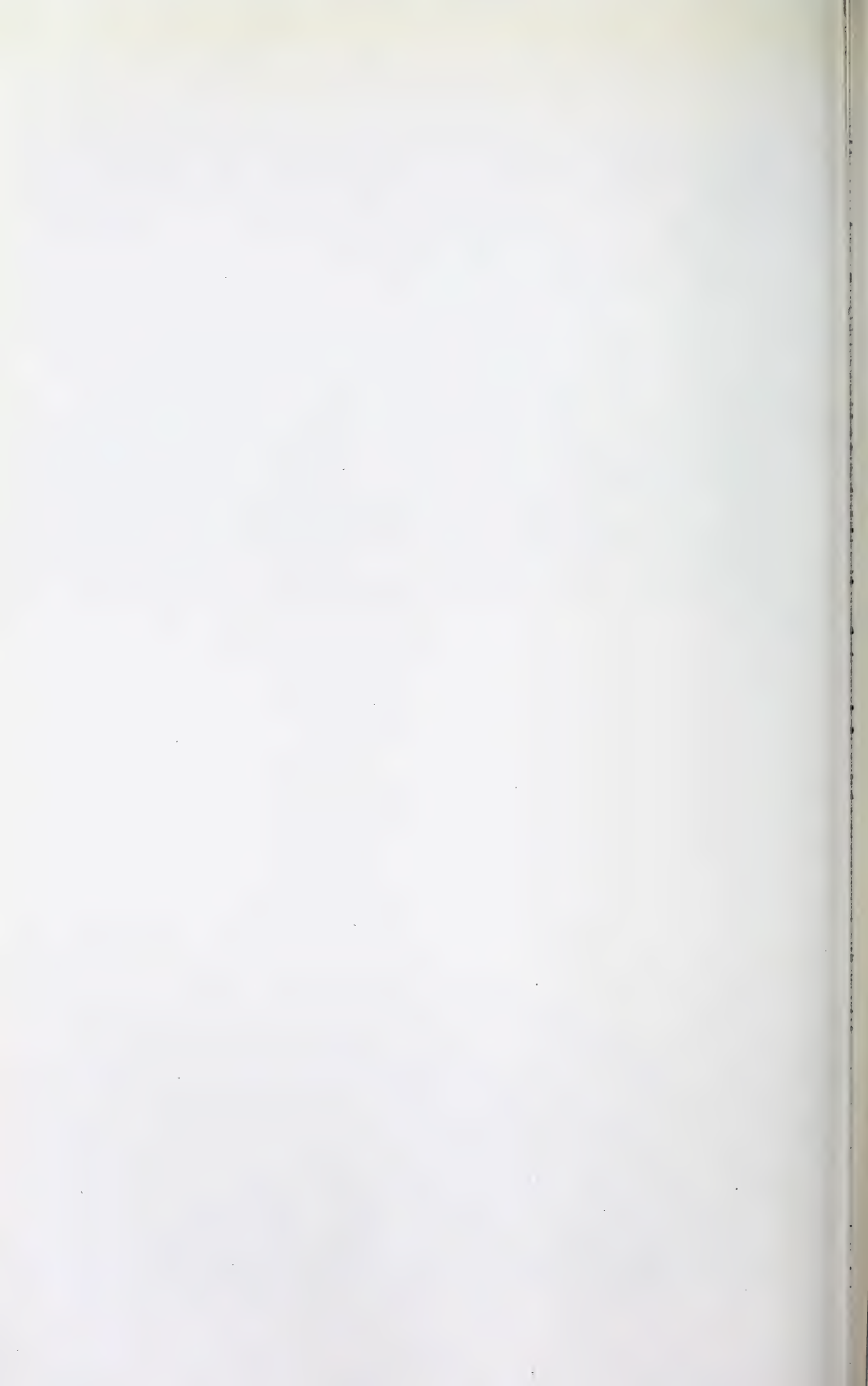
When the various towns of Suffolk County chose delegates in 1774, to meet and consider the general conditions then prevailing, it was not deemed safe to meet in Boston, which was then in the hands of the British soldiery, and



CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL SCHOOL. CANTON



Dr. (afterward Gen.) Joseph Warren recommended Doty's Tavern as a quiet spot where the convention was not likely to be molested. Warren had stopped at the tavern and was acquainted with the proprietor. The result of his recommendations was that the first meeting of the "Suffolk Congress" was held at this tavern on August 16, 1774. Norfolk County had not yet been organized and the territory now comprising it was then all in the County of Suffolk. A second meeting of the congress was held at Dedham on September 6, 1774, and three days later, at a third meeting held at the house of Daniel Vose, in the Town of Milton, was adopted the famous "Suffolk Resolves," which paved the way for the Declaration of Independence two years later. The Doty Tavern was destroyed by fire on December 19, 1888. General Lafayette stopped at this house while on his way from Taunton to Boston during the Revolution, and John Adams and John Hancock were guests of Col. "Tom" Doty at various times.

#### EARLY ORDINANCES

Some of the early ordinances or orders of the town meetings may seem strange to the people of the present generation. Canton was incorporated in February, 1797, and the annual town meeting of the following year appropriated \$1,000 for highways, \$500 for the maintenance of schools, \$600 for general expenses, and \$300 "to clapboard the back end of the meeting house, the back side of the belfry, also to paint the house." In the warrant for the town meeting for 1799 an article was inserted "to see if the town will procure and set up a stove in the meeting house, for the convenience and comfort of those who attend public worship in the winter season." The article was dismissed, as the sentiment that church congregations should defray their own expenses was already finding a lodgment in the minds of many of the citizens.

At the annual meeting on March 7, 1808, it was "Voted that a bounty of one dollar per head or tail for every Rattlesnake absolutely taken and killed within the months of April, May & October the present year." In his address on July 4, 1876, Charles Endicott referred to this bounty as follows: "Practically this was very much like offering a bounty of two dollars for each snake killed, and very likely it was found to be so, for the next year the town voted the same sum for rattlesnakes tails only, and cautioned the treasurer 'to guard against deception when he is applied to for such bounties.'"

#### CANTON IN 1917

Early in the history of the town Canton came into prominence as a manufacturing center, and it is still one of the active manufacturing towns of Norfolk County. The first factory in the State of Massachusetts for making cotton goods by machinery was established in this town in 1803. Paul Revere & Son had established a copper-works two years before, where bells and cannon were cast. Silks, cordage and woollen goods were among the early manufactured products, and some of the factories established a century or more ago are still in operation, though in some cases the character of their products has been materially altered. A more detailed account of these establishments will be found in another chapter.

In 1910 the population of Canton was 4,797, and in 1915 the state census reported a population of 5,623, a gain of 826 in five years. On April 1, 1916, the board of assessors reported the valuation of property as \$7,038,466, and the estimated value of the town property, school houses, town hall, waterworks, etc., as \$602,000. Canton has two banks, a weekly newspaper (the Journal), churches of various denominations, a fine public library, seven public school buildings valued at \$140,000, in which twenty-four teachers are employed; a number of well-stocked mercantile establishments; an active and energetic board of trade, steam and electric railway lines, good public highways, an almshouse for the care of the poor, etc.

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town officers were as follows: Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, Ernest A. Guild, Thomas D. Mullen and Joseph A. Murphy; Assessors, Matthew E. Callahan, Frederic P. Drake and Ernest A. Guild; Clerk, Walter Ames; Treasurer and Tax Collector, Robert Bird; Auditors, James E. Grimes, H. E. Beal and Peter Callery; Water Commissioners, Michael F. Ward, Walter S. Draper and James O'Leary; School Committee, George H. Capen, Augustus Hemenway, I. C. Horton, H. L. Fenno, Thomas J. Hill, E. L. Underwood, Charles H. French, Francis A. Ryan and Frederic H. Bisbee; Constables, John H. Flood and John Bowerman; Highway Surveyor, John Buckley, Jr.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE TOWN OF COHASSET

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—FIRST WHITE MEN AND SETTLEMENT—DIVIDING THE LAND  
—THE HINGHAM REBELLION—DISTRICT OF COHASSET—FIRST TOWN MEETING—  
TOWN HALL—COHASSET WATER COMPANY—FIRE DEPARTMENT—ELECTRIC  
LIGHT—MISCELLANEOUS.

By the act of March 26, 1793, establishing the County of Norfolk, the towns of Hingham and Hull were included in the new county. Before the act went into effect, the people of these two towns presented a petition to the General Court, asking that they be permitted to remain a part of Plymouth County. The petition was granted and on June 20, 1793, the very day the law went into effect, that portion of the act relating to Hingham and Hull was repealed. This left Cohasset detached from the main body of Norfolk County. On the north, south and west it is bounded by parts of Plymouth County, and on the east by the waters of Massachusetts Bay. Cohasset is noted for its rocky coast line, and for the number of shipwrecks that occurred there during the days of the old sailing vessels. The Indian name of this part of the coast was "Conohasset" (sometimes written Quonahassit), which means "long, rocky place." Along the sea shore the scenery is rather picturesque, the rocky bluffs being indented by numerous bays and coves, among which are Cohasset Harbor, Sandy Cove, Little Harbor and "The Gulf." There are no streams of consequence in the town, though in the southern part is Lily or Great Pond, a pretty little body of fresh water.

#### FIRST WHITE MEN

Capt. John Smith, who visited Cohasset Harbor on his voyage of 1614, was the first man to make a report on this part of the Massachusetts coast. He traded with the Indians of Cohasset, from whom he purchased "neer 1,100 beaver skins, 100 martins and neer as many otters."

Among the Indians living in what is now the Town of Cohasset there was a faint tradition that white men had been there prior to the visit of Captain Smith. In 1568 about one hundred men were abandoned on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico by Capt. John Hawkins. David Ingram and two others of the marooned men started northward and by following the Indian trails reached the New England coast. Subsequently Ingram was rescued by the crew of a French vessel, who found him on the shores of New Brunswick. From the story told by him to his rescuers, it is possible that he and his two associates were the white men of the Cohasset Indian tradition.

In 1633 Edmond Hobart, with his wife, his son Joshua and his two daughters, Sarah and Rebekah, came from Hingham, England, and landed at Charlestown. Later in the same year they were joined by Edmond Hobart, Jr., his wife, his brother Thomas, with his wife and three children, Thomas Lincoln and Nicholas Jacob, all from Hingham, England. Most of the available land about Charlestown had been allotted to those who came earlier, and the newcomers began looking about for a suitable place to found a new settlement. They selected the place called Bare Cove, on the inside of the Nantasket peninsula. Under the order of 1629, any man who would cross the Atlantic at his own expense was to be given fifty acres of land. The settlers at Bare Cove availed themselves of this order and on September 25, 1634, the little colony there was taxed four pounds as a plantation.

On June 8, 1635, twenty-eight more persons arrived at Charlestown. Among them was Rev. Peter Hobart, a son of Edmond Hobart, Sr., and a graduate of Cambridge College, England. This company joined the colony at Bare Cove, the name of which was changed to Hingham on September 2, 1635. Rev. Peter Hobart was asked to become the pastor of several of the early churches, but cast his lot with the settlement at Hingham, where he was the first minister.

On April 19, 1637, Thomas Loring, Clement Bates, Nicholas Jacob and Joseph Andrews were granted a monopoly of the herring fisheries of the river "over towards Cohasset," called "Lyford's Liking." Lyford was an Irish preacher who came to Plymouth in 1624, but was dismissed from that colony for treachery. In 1625 he settled near the mouth of this stream, which doubtless derived its name on account of his "liking" the location. After Loring and his associates built their fish weir, the stream took the name of Weir River, which it still bears. One condition of their monopoly was that they should "sell fish at not more than ten shillings and sixpence per thousand."

Some time in the year 1637 the settlement at Hingham adopted the system of having nine picked men to manage the affairs of the colony. The first men selected for this purpose were: Edward Hobart, Sr., Nicholas Jacob, Clement Bates, Henry Tuttle, Thomas Hammond, Anthony Eames, Henry Rust, Samuel Ward and Thomas Underwood. They had authority "to receive any person into the municipality; to give, grant, let & set, all for the good of the whole," but had not the power to fix the rate of taxation. A rule was adopted that if any one of these nine men should fail to attend a meeting he should be fined "one peck of Indian corn."

The nearest place where the settlers of Hingham could have their corn ground into meal was the little corn mill in what is now the Town of Weymouth. A bare trail was the only road to the mill and it sometimes happened that a settler would fall a tree and leave its trunk lying across the pathway. On April 11, 1637, the people decreed at a meeting that if any man should fall a tree across the road, so that a horse and cart could not pass, he should be fined twelve pence.

At the beginning of the year 1638 the population of Hingham was forty-two. In that year the ship "Diligent" brought over 133 immigrants to seek homes. Several of them were mechanics, who brought their tools with them, and quite a number of the newcomers settled in Hingham, the mechanics especially proving a welcome addition to the little community.

## DIVIDING THE LAND

As early as 1637 the people of Hingham went to the Cohasset marshes to harvest hay for their live stock. The first individual ownership of land within the present Town of Cohasset were the grassy plains called Turkey Meadows, at the foot of Turkey Hill. On March 5, 1638, these meadows were parceled out to some of the settlers in lots of about fifteen acres each, in order that they might be certain of a supply of hay for their cattle. During the next two years there was a marked increase in the number of inhabitants, and on July 6, 1640, it was "agreed by joint consent that after the newcomers and others, which come short, the old planters' accommodations be made up by equal proportions, according to their stocks and necessities—that the remaining part of Conyhasset shall be divided by equal proportions according to the men's heads and stocks, twenty-five pounds in stock to go by equal proportion to a head."

Although the language used in framing this agreement is somewhat ambiguous, the settlers seemed to understand just what it meant, as they divided the land without dispute under its provisions, a man who possessed live stock worth twenty-five pounds receiving twice as much land as the one who owned no live stock. Nine men were chosen to make the division, viz.: Joseph Peck, Nicholas Jacob, Henry Smith, Edmond Pitts, John Parker, Henry Tuttle, Nicholas Baker, Thomas Hammond and Clement Bates. By this division each of the newcomers secured a small tract of the Cohasset meadows. Joseph Peck and Nicholas Jacob were evidently men of some prominence among the pioneers. The meadow lands drawn by them in the division of 1640 still bear their names. Peck's meadow is situated at the foot of the Richardson Hill on the north side, along the Jerusalem Road, and Jacob's meadow is crossed by South Main Street, not far from the Catholic Church.

On February 28, 1648, Thomas Hammond, Clement Bates, Joshua Hobart, Nicholas Jacob, William Hersey, Anthony Eames, John Otis, Matthew Cushing and Joseph Underwood were appointed to make a second division of the "Cohasset Meadows," or that portion of them that had not been allotted to settlers in the division of 1640. Among those who received tracts of meadow land in this division were: Thomas Andrews, Nathan Baker, Clement Bates, Thomas Barnes, James Buck, William Chapman, Mark Eames, Francis James, Philip James, Andrew Lane, Matthew Lane, Thomas Lincoln (cooper), Thomas Lincoln (carpenter), John Morrick, David Phippeny, William Ripley, Thomas Thaxter, John Tower, Joseph Underwood, Edward Wilder and Ralph Woodward.

Surveyors of the present day would probably look with disdain upon the methods employed by the nine men selected to divide the Cohasset meadows in 1640 and 1648. With chain and wooden stakes, they measured and marked off the marshes in the neighborhood of Little Harbor, and in the case of some irregularly shaped pieces of land they "guessed" at the number of acres. They were guided in their work, however, by a spirit of fairness and impartiality, and if any dissatisfaction arose over the division it has not been made a matter of record.

There still remained some undivided land in what is now the Town of Cohasset after the action of February, 1648. On July 4, 1665, the three sons of the Indian sachem, Chickatabot, deeded the lands now comprising Hingham and Cohasset to Joshua Hubbard (or Hobart) and John Thaxter for the inhabi-

tants. The consideration named in that deed was satisfied by granting twelve acres "on Turkey Hill, on the north side of a way leading to Scituate, to Lieut. John Smith and Deacon John Leavitt, on condition that they satisfy all the charge about the purchase of the Town's land," etc.

At a meeting held on January 17, 1670, about four and a half years after the Indian title was extinguished, the settlers "determined to throw the whole of their undivided lands into seven hundred shares, and then distribute those shares by an open vote, and afterwards to survey the land, giving pieces to each shareholder according to the number of his shares."

Under this arrangement there were about fourteen hundred acres of land to be distributed, hence each share entitled the holder to approximately two acres. Daniel Cushing, then the town clerk, received thirty-five shares, the largest number given to a single individual by the "open vote." Peter Hobart, pastor of the church, received twenty-five shares; Joshua Hobart, eighteen; John Thaxter, sixteen and a half; John Smith and Nathan Baker, fifteen shares each; John Leavitt, fourteen and a half; John Ripley and Jeremiah Beal, thirteen each; Thomas Hobart, John Beal, Sr., Thomas Lincoln (husbandman), Edmond Hobart, John Tucker, Thomas Lincoln (carpenter), Edmond Pitts, Thomas Andrews and John Otis, ten shares each; the other participants being awarded from three to eight shares each, except Clement Bates, Jr., who received but one share.

#### THE HINGHAM REBELLION

In 1644, several years prior to the division of the Cohasset lands, Anthony Eames, lieutenant of the militia, became so disgusted at the awkwardness displayed by the local company that he used some sarcastic language and refused to drill the men. Eames had been elected captain, but had not yet been confirmed. To punish him the members of the company held a meeting and elected Bozoan Allen in his place. The colonial authorities refused to concur in this action, which meant that Eames must remain at the head of the company until the next session of the General Court. Two-thirds of the company refused to drill under Eames and the Boston magistrates issued warrants for the arrest of the offenders. Five men were arrested—three of them members of the Hobart family—and by order of Deputy-Governor Winthrop two were lodged in jail.

When the General Court met ninety men from Hingham and Cohasset appeared with a petition asking that Winthrop be tried for exceeding his authority in committing the men to jail. Rev. Peter Hobart, pastor of the church, was at the head of this movement, and Joshua Hobart was also quite active. The latter was fined twenty-five pounds. A smaller fine was imposed upon the pastor, on account of his calling, but he refused to pay and his fine was increased to twenty-five pounds. Altogether the penalties levied against the recalcitrants amounted to one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The incident disturbed the peace of Hingham for several years. The people stood by their pastor, paid his fines, and apparently regarded him with more esteem than before the affair. Some years afterwards he was forbidden to preach in Boston, the magistrates assigning as the reason that "He is a bold man and will speak his mind." Hon. Thomas Russell, in an address delivered at the centennial anniversary of Cohasset, May 7, 1870, in referring to this controversy, said:

"We lose patience as we read the story of this contest. We smile at the superstitious bigotry of Winthrop, who finds a Providential interposition when some Hingham men made light of the colony's fast and, attempting to take a raft to Boston, were delayed a month by bad weather. But while we criticise and smile, we should remember that Hobart and his friends were believed to threaten the powers and rulers of the province, and that such threats imperiled the right of self-government. We know, also, that they were dreaded because they troubled the churches, and those that troubled the churches were believed to endanger souls. On both sides we find error, on both sides sincerity—the great manly virtue from which all virtue springs. There have been men of gentler disposition than Peter Hobart, of more enlightened views than Governor Winthrop, of more refined taste, of more graceful speech than any of the Pilgrim Fathers; but those men have no New England for their monument."

While the turmoil was at its height a few Hingham families left the town to find peace in some other locality. Lieutenant Eames was ostracized for a time by a majority of the militia company and their intimate friends, but it seems he was restored to the good graces of the community, as he was one of the nine men appointed to divide the lands in February, 1648. And after all, the spirit which moved the people of Hingham and Cohasset to protest against the sarcasm of their military commander and what they regarded as the tyranny of Governor Winthrop, was the same spirit of independence which cemented the American colonies together more than a century later in their resistance to British oppression, a resistance which culminated in the Revolution and resulted in the establishment of a republic.

#### DISTRICT OF COHASSET

Early in the Eighteenth century the few settlers in Cohasset became dissatisfied because of the great distance they had to go to attend church or to send their children to school. In 1711 the Hingham tax list showed that there were thirty-six people in Cohasset against whom poll taxes were assessed. The taxable property of that year consisted of "22 dwelling houses, 48 oxen, 78 cows, 31 horses, 213 sheep and 14 hogs." The total tax was about fifty-four pounds. As the residents of that section of the town paid a considerable portion of the taxes, they asked to be relieved of part of the burden and permitted to establish a church and school within easy distance. In response to this request, the Hingham town meeting of May 14, 1713, voted "That the Inhabitants of Conahasset shall have Liberty to get up and erect a meeting house there on that land called the Plain."

While the citizens of the Town of Hingham were willing to allow the petitioners the privilege of building a church, they failed to remit any part of the tax, consequently the people of Cohasset did not "get up and erect a meeting house." On March 7, 1715, they submitted three propositions to the Hingham town meeting, to-wit: First, that the eastern portion of the town be made a separate precinct, so the people there could tax themselves for the support of a church and school; second, that they be allowed something out of the town treasury to help maintain a church; third, the abatement of the sum paid to the minister in Hingham. All these propositions were rejected by the town meeting.

In June, 1715, a committee was appointed by the General Court "to repair to

Hingham and have a town meeting called for the purpose of securing satisfaction for the Conohasset pioneers." The meeting was held the following month, at which it was voted "That the inhabitants of Conohasset, that is to say the inhabitants of the First Division and Second Division & part of the Third Division of Conohasset upland to the fifty-fourth lot of the Second Part of the Third Division, be freed from time to time from paying toward the support of a minister in Hingham during the time that they provide an orthodox minister among themselves, provided they cheerfully accept of the same."

But the inhabitants of Conohasset did not "cheerfully accept" for the reason they considered the burden imposed was too heavy for them to bear. In March, 1716, the Town of Hingham voted "to allow £17. 19s. 6d. out of the town treasury towards maintaining the worship of God in Conohasset." That sum represented Cohasset's share of the church and school taxes for the preceding year and the money was ordered to be paid to John Jacob. It appears that Mr. Jacob, probably advised by some of his neighbors, refused to accept the money, and in February, 1717, the town was again asked to establish a precinct. In the summer of that year a committee appointed by the General Court again visited the town to investigate the conditions. Upon the report of this committee the Court passed an act on November 21, 1717, creating a precinct of Cohasset, "alias Little Hingham," and setting off the inhabitants in the matter of church and school.

The first meeting in the new precinct or parish was held on July 14, 1718, Daniel Lincoln presiding as moderator and Thomas James acting as clerk. The principal business transacted at this meeting was that of accepting the act establishing the precinct. At a subsequent meeting a fast was appointed for the third Thursday in April, 1719, in order to call a minister to the parish. Mr. Pierpont was then called and Mr. Spear in the spring of 1721. No regular minister was settled, however, until September, 1721, when Nehemiah Hobart was installed as pastor. In 1727 the precinct petitioned the General Court for liberty to apply taxes to the support of schools, which was granted, and the first school was opened in the fall of 1728.

During the next quarter of a century the population grew steadily and at a meeting held on February 11, 1751, "A vote was tryed whether we should Petetion the other parte of ye Town that we might be Sett off a distinct District or Township—Passed in ye affirmative." John Stephenson, Samuel Cushing and Isaac Lincoln were appointed a committee to present the petition at the Hingham town meeting in May, where it was "Passed in ye negative." Similar action was taken by a precinct meeting on March 4, 1752, with the understanding that if Hingham again refused consent the question should be taken to the General Court. At the Hingham town meeting on May 14, 1752, the petition was rejected, but the records do not show that the question was at that time carried to the General Court. Another effort was made in March, 1753, when the original committee was reappointed and instructed to "get the matter before the General Court," but in this instance the records are also silent as to the general result.

Repeated rebuffs had discouraged some of the people of little Hingham and they became somewhat indifferent on the subject. Enough maintained their interest, however, to present the "double barreled" petition again in March, 1756, one to the Town of Hingham and the other to the General Court. At the Hingham town meeting on May 19, 1756, the petition was again rejected

and the question then lay dormant for about twelve years. Then the following petition was prepared:

“Hingham, Jan. ye 2th, 1768.

“To Capt. Daniel Lincoln, Mr. Jazaniah Nichols and Mr. Thomas Lothrop,  
Parish Committee for calling meetings, &sf.

“Gentlemen—We the subscribers apprehending that it will be for the advantage of the Inhabitants in the Second Parish of Hingham to be made a District Do hereby Apply to you in behalf of Our Selves and others Requesting that you would forth with Call a Legal Meeting of sd Inhabitants To See whether they will vote to apply to the Town at there Annual Meeting next March to bee incorporated or Set off as aforesaid.

“There to chuse a Committtee in order to make the Application to the Town and also to transact any other matters or things that Shall there Bee thought Conducive to Accomplish this Beneficial End wee have in view, as Wittness our Hands.

“Daniel Tower, John Stephenson, Isaac Lincoln, Solomon Bates, Amos Joy, John Wilcott, Israel Whitcom, Samuel Cushing, Jonathan Near, John Stephenson, Jr., Isaac Lincoln, Sr., Jonathan Pratt, James Litchfield, Mordecai Lincoln, Obadiah Lincoln, David Marble, Jr., Israel Whitcom, Jr., Job Whitcom, Lot Whitcom, John Pratt, Joshua Bates, Abel Kent, Thomas Lincoln, Price Prichart, Micah Nichols, James Hall, Cushing Kilby, Uriah Oakes, Charles Ripley, Mordecai Bates, Elisha Bates, Laz Beal, Jr., Nehemiah Bates, Newcomb Bourn, Jonathan Beals, Mijah Clapp, Thomas Pratt, Solomon Cushing, Benjamin Stetson, Hezekiah Lincoln, Benjamin Beals, Richard Tower, Caleb Joy, Noah Nichols, Joseph Bates, Isaac Tower, Enoch Stodard, James Stodard, Philip James, Abner Bates, James Bates, Joshua Burr, John Beal, Isaac Burr, Thomas Nichols, Job Tower, James Stetson, John Tower, Daniel Tower, Jr.”

In response to this petition a meeting was called for January 25, 1768, at which it was voted to petition Hingham and the General Court for a charter and “to be invested with all the Libertys and Privileges of a Town, that of sending a Representative to the General Court only excepted, and that they have the Liberty of joining with ye Town of Hingham in the choice of a Representative from time to time.”

Isaac Lincoln, Jr., John Stephenson, Jr., and Laz Beal, Jr., were appointed a committee to lay the matter before the Hingham town meeting. When that meeting assembled, Hingham refused the request of the petitioners and appointed Joshua Hersey, Benjamin Lincoln, Jr., Joseph Andrews, Joseph Thaxter and Theophilus Cushing a committee to prepare and present a remonstrance to the General Court. Nothing definite was accomplished until March 28, 1770, when the General Court appointed Jonathan Bradbury, Colonel Gerrish and Major Bancroft as a special committee “to repair to Hingham, as soon as may be, view the said Parish and report to the Court what in their opinion is proper to be done.” The committee was entertained at the house of Lazarus Beal and the expense of the investigation (£4. 17s. 10d.) was charged to the Town of Hingham. On April 25, 1770, the committee reported in favor of the petitioners and they were given liberty to frame a bill for the establishing of a district. The bill had evidently been prepared in advance of the committee’s report, for on April 26, 1770, “An Act for incorporating the Second Precinct in Hingham into a District by the name of Cohasset,” became a law.

Although called a "district" in the act of incorporation, the law provided "That the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of Towns within this Province do, or by law ought to enjoy (that of sending a Representative to the General Assembly only excepted) and that the inhabitants of said District shall have liberty, from time to time, to join with the Town of Hingham in the choice of a Representative or Representatives."

Not only were the inhabitants invested with the powers, privileges and immunities of a town, but they were also required to perform all the duties required of towns. Benjamin Lincoln was named in the act as "empowered to issue a warrant to some principal inhabitant of said District of Cohasset, requiring him to call a meeting of said inhabitants, in order to choose such officers as towns are by law empowered to choose," etc.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

Benjamin Lincoln issued a call for a meeting to be held on May 7, 1770, "at Cohasset meeting house on the Common." Isaac Lincoln was chosen moderator and the following town officers were elected: Joseph Souther, Daniel Lincoln and Isaac Lincoln, selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor; Daniel Lincoln, clerk; Thomas Bourne, treasurer; James Litchfield, Ephraim Lincoln and Abel Kent, school committee. The act of April 26th, incorporating the district, was accepted and it was "Voted to ask that the style of 'district' be changed to 'town.'" This was not done, however, until 1786, when the General Court passed an act that all districts incorporated prior to 1777 should be, to all intents and purposes, towns.

#### TOWN HALL

The town meetings were held in the First Parish Church until 1832. In 1797 a company of persons erected a building for a private school. In 1832 the town authorities obtained the use of this building, where meetings were held until the erection of the present town hall in 1857. It is a substantial frame building, two stories in height, and when first built the lower floor was used for some years for the high school. The original cost of the hall was about four thousand dollars, but an addition was made to it some years later, a heating plant and plumbing fixtures installed, giving the town ample accommodations for the transaction of public business. The building contains offices for the town clerk, assessors, selectmen, etc., and a large hall for holding public meetings. It is well preserved and the common in front of the Cohasset Town Hall is one of the prettiest spots in Norfolk County.

#### COHASSET WATER COMPANY

Prior to 1887 the Town of Cohasset depended upon wells for its water supply. On April 26, 1886, fourteen men met and organized the Cohasset Water Company, which was incorporated a few days later. Several plans were considered for ob-

taining water for the people of the town, but the one finally selected was that of driving a number of deep wells in the meadow called "The Pickle," pumping the water to a reservoir on the top of Bear Hill, from which it could be forced by gravity pressure to all parts of the town. The capital stock of the company was fixed at \$100,000 and as soon as a sufficient amount had been paid in work on the plant was commenced. The reservoir on Bear Hill, with a capacity of 1,500,000, was constructed and connected by pipes with fifty-four wells in "The Pickle." Mains were laid on the principal streets and the first water was supplied in the early autumn of 1887. Within recent years there have been some complaints about the quality of the water and the rates charged by the company, and there have been numerous expressions in favor of the purchase of the plant by the town, but nothing definite had been done up to July 1, 1917.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Cohasset Fire Department dates back to April 30, 1807, when the following petition was presented to the board of selectmen:

"To the Selectmen of the Town of Cohasset:

"Gentlemen—You are requested to insert the following article in the warrant for the May meeting, viz:

"To see if the Town will Accept of a Fire Engine with Bucketts &c Compleat According to Law, to be procured and paid for by Mr. Elisha Doane, Jr., Mr. Nichols Tower, Mr. John Nichols, Mr. Joseph Lincoln, Mr. Wm. Whittington and such others as may Joyn them to the number the Law allowes and to be Compleated agreeable to Law in the course of Nine Months—with the proviso, that if the Selectmen should at any time hereafter appoint Engine men to the exclusion of the present applicants, or any of their Associates or Assigns, then the Town shall reimburse to those who they may exclude all expences they may have been at."

The petition was signed by Laban Bates, Elisha Doane, Abel Kent, Jr., Thaddeus Lawrence, Israel Nichols, James Stoddard, William Stutson and Joel Willcutt. At the May meeting the proposition was accepted and a few months later the engine was placed in commission. It was soon discovered that the engine was not a paying investment, on account of a scarcity of water, the only source of supply being the wells and some small ponds, and several years passed before the department was placed upon an efficient basis.

In 1905 a fire alarm system was installed and at the annual town meeting on March 6, 1916, it was "Voted that the sum of \$4,820 be raised and appropriated, and that \$1,000 of this amount be expended under the Board of Engineers for the purpose of repairs to the fire house at the cove, said repairs to consist of installing a new heating plant and such other repairs as in their judgment are most necessary." The board of engineers at that time was composed of Henry E. Brennock, chief; George Jason, assistant chief; George F. Sargent and Sidney L. Beal, district chiefs. In their report at the close of the year they announced that the repairs had been made. The department then consisted of two combination engine and hook and ladder companies—one at Cohasset and one at Beechwood—and a hose company at North Cohasset.

## ELECTRIC LIGHT

On July 28, 1890, a company was formed for the purpose of lighting the towns of Cohasset and Scituate by electricity. It was incorporated on the 12th of August the same year under the name of the "Electric Light and Power Company of Abington and Rockland." Work on construction was pushed forward with commendable energy and on September 14, 1890, the streets of Cohasset were lighted for the first time by electricity. The Hingham Municipal Electric Plant also furnishes a number of lights, especially in the vicinity of North Cohasset.

## MISCELLANEOUS

One of the early settlers in Cohasset was Mordecai Lincoln, the ancestor of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States. Mordecai Lincoln received a grant of land on Bound Brook and built a mill on that stream. Prior to that time the nearest mill was at Straits Pond, but it could run only when the tide was out of the Weir River. The volume of water in Bound Brook was not sufficient to run a mill constantly, but Mr. Lincoln's ingenuity was able to overcome this difficulty. He built three mills—one at Turtle Island, one at Beechwood and the third at Bound Rock. On Monday and Tuesday there was a sufficient head of water to run the mill at Turtle Island; Wednesday and Thursday he could operate the mill at Beechwood; and on Friday and Saturday the one at Bound Rock was kept busy. There is an old song entitled "The mill will never grind with the water that has passed," but the composer was evidently not acquainted with the method employed by Mordecai Lincoln, who used the same water three times. Mr. Lincoln also operated an iron smelter and forge, hauling his bog iron ore from Pembroke, a distance of ten miles, with ox teams.

During the first half of the Nineteenth Century shipbuilding was carried on at Cohasset and between the years 1820 and 1845 it was an important industry. Among the vessels that went out from the Cohasset yards were the brigs *Eolus* and *Talisman*, the *Barque Hobart*, the schooners *Ansurla*, *Tower*, *Albicore*, *Myra*, *Convert*, *Talisman*, *William Bates*, *Bela Bates* and *Fleetwind*. A number of the schooners were employed in the fishing industry, which is still a prominent feature of Cohasset's business enterprises.

The location of Cohasset makes it a desirable place for summer residence and many wealthy citizens of Boston own cottages along the coast, where they spend a large part of their time during the hot weather of July and August. The Boston & Plymouth division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system passes through the town, with frequent trains, which enables these summer residents to make the short journey to the city whenever it becomes necessary. In 1910 the population of Cohasset was 2,585, and in 1915 it was 2,800. The assessed valuation of property in 1916 was \$9,802,964.

At the beginning of the year 1917 the town officers were: Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, Harry E. Mapes, William O. Souther, Jr., Herbert L. Browe; Clerk, Harry F. Tilden; Treasurer and Collector, Newcomb B. Tower; Highway Surveyor, George Jason; Constables, Sidney L. Beal, Henry E. Brennock, John T. Keating, Louis J. Morris and Edward E. Wentworth.

## CHAPTER XV

### THE TOWN OF DEDHAM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—SETTLEMENT AND GRANT—THE COVENANT—THE TOWN INCORPORATED—NAMING THE TOWN—ORIGINAL TERRITORY—A FEW PIONEERS—FIRST TOWN OFFICERS—DEDHAM IN 1664—TRAINING GROUND—EARLY MILLS—DEDHAM ISLAND—PETUMTUCK—OLD-TIME TAVERNS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—DEDHAM WATER COMPANY—MEMORIAL HALL—THE TOWN SEAL—POSTOFFICE—THE DEDHAM OF THE PRESENT.

Dedham, the shire town of Norfolk County, is situated a little north of the center of the county. It is somewhat irregular in shape; is bounded on the north by the Town of Needham; on the east by the City of Boston; on the southeast by the Town of Canton, and on the south and west by the Town of Westwood. It is separated from Needham by the Charles River, and the Neponset River flows between Dedham and Canton. The town is well watered by these two streams and their smaller tributaries. The surface is generally rolling or hilly, and the soil is of a sandy or gravelly nature, not naturally fertile, but by careful cultivation it can be made to produce fair crops of the grains, fruits and vegetables adapted to this section of the country.

#### SETTLEMENT AND GRANT

In May, 1635, the General Court gave permission to the people of Watertown "to remove whither they pleased, provided they continued under the jurisdiction of the court." Some of the inhabitants of those towns selected a location on the Charles River, and on September 3, 1635, the General Court ordered that: "There shall be a plantation settled about two miles above the falls of the Charles River, on the northeast side thereof, to have ground lying to it on both sides of the river, both upland and meadow, to be laid out hereafter as the court shall appoint."

The first settlement was made upon the new plantation in the fall of 1635 by people from Watertown and Roxbury. In March, 1636, the General Court appointed commissioners to set out the bounds of the plantation. The commissioners made their report on April 13, 1636. At that time it was a custom in New England for the settlers in a new community, before they were incorporated as a town, to form themselves into a sort of voluntary association and enter into an agreement to observe certain regulations until such time as the General Court should see fit to pass an act of incorporation. Pursuant to this custom, the settlers of the new plantation on the Charles River, soon after the bounds had been fixed by the commissioners, adopted the following

## COVENANT

"1. We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do, in the fear and reverence of Almighty God, mutually and severally promise amongst ourselves and each to other to profess and practice one truth according to that most perfect rule the foundation whereof is everlasting love.

"2. That we shall by all means labor to keep off from us all such as are contrary-minded, and receive only such unto us as be such as may be probably of one heart with us, as that we either know or may well and truly be informed to walk in peaceable conversation, with all meekness of spirit, for the edification of each other, in the knowledge and faith of the Lord Jesus, and the mutual encouragement unto all temporal comforts in all things, seeking the good of each other out of all which may be derived true peace.

"3. That if at any time difference shall arise between parties of our said town, that then such party and parties shall presently refer all such difference unto some two or three others of our said society, to be fully accorded and determined without further delay, if it possibly may be.

"4. That every man that now or at any time hereafter shall have lots in our said town shall pay his share in all such rates of money and charges as shall be imposed upon him rateably in proportion with other men, as also become freely subject unto all such orders and constitutions as shall be necessarily had or made, now or at any time hereafter, from this day forward, as well for the loving and comfortable society in our said town as also for the prosperous and thriving condition of our said fellowship, especially respecting the fear of God, in which we desire to begin and continue whatsoever we shall by His loving favor take in hand.

"5. And for the better manifestation of our true resolution herein, every man so received to subscribe hereunto his name, thereby obliging both himself and his successors after him forever, as we have done."

This covenant was signed by one hundred and twenty-five persons, to wit: Ferdinando Adams, Thomas Alcock, John Aldis, Nathan Aldis, Edward Alleyne, James Allin, John Allin, Francis Austin, William Avery, Michael Bacon, George Barber, Richard Barber, Thomas Bartlett, John Batchelor, Thomas Bayes, George Bearstowe, William Bearstowe, Henry Brock, Benjamin Bullard, Isaac Bullard, John Bullard, William Bullard, Samuel Bulleyne, Thomas Cakebread, Thomas Carter, Francis Chickering, Joseph Clarke, Nathaniel Coaleborne (Colburn), Edward Colver, John Coolidge, Robert Crossman, Philemon Dalton, Timothy Dalton, Andrew Deming, Henry Dengayne, James Draper, John Dwight, Timothy Dwight, Timothy Dwight, Jr., Thomas Eames, John Eaton, John Elderkin, John Ellice, Joseph Ellice, Richard Ellice, Richard Evered (Everard), George Fayerbanke, John Fayerbanke, Jonathan Fayerbanke, Jonathan Fayerbanke, Jr., Robert Feake, Anthony Fisher, Cornelius Fisher, John Fisher, Joshua Fisher, Samuel Fisher, Thomas Fisher, Thomas Fisher, Jr., John Frayrye, Ralph Freeman, Thomas Fuller, John Gaye, Lambert Genere, Henry Glover, Robert Gowen, John Guild, Thomas Hastings, James Herring, Thomas Herring, Robert Hinsdale, Ezekiel Holliman, John Houghton, John Haward (Howard), John Huggin, Jonas Humphrey, John Hunting, James Jordan, Thomas Jordan, Edward Kempe, Austen Kilham, John Kingsbury, Joseph Kingsbury, Thomas Leader, Eleazer Lusher,



THE SQUARE, LOOKING EAST, DEDHAM



FRANKLIN SQUARE, DEDHAM



John Luson, John Mason, Michael Metcalfe, Thomas Metcalfe, Samuel Mills, Jeffrey Mingeye, Daniel Morse, John Morse, Joseph Morse, Samuel Morse, Joseph Moyes, Robert Onion, John Partridge, Thomas Payne, Henry Phillips, Martin Phillips, Nicholas Phillips, John Plympton, Daniel Pond, Michael Powell, John Rice, Edward Richards, John Rogers, John Roper, Abraham Shaw, Joseph Shaw, Ralph Shepherd, Benjamin Smith, Christopher Smith, Henry Smyth, Hugh Stacey, Thwaites Strickland, James Thorpe, John Thurston, James Vales (Fales), Robert Ware, Ralph Wheelock, Nathaniel Whiting, Thomas Wight, Ellice Wood and Peter Woodward.

The covenant bears no date to show just when it was adopted, and a few of the names attached to it were those of mere children, notably Timothy Dwight, Jr., Isaac Bullard, Jonathan Fayerbanke, Jr., and John Houghton, some of whom were not more than five years of age at the time the covenant was first written.

#### THE TOWN INCORPORATED

The oldest record of a town meeting in the settlement on the Charles River bears date of August 18, 1636. Another meeting held on the 5th of September was attended by nineteen persons, who adopted the following petition for presentation to the General Court, which was then in session:

"1. May it please this honored court to ratify unto your humble petitioners your grant formerly made of a plantation above the falls that we may possess all that land which is left out of all former grants upon that side of the Charles River. And upon the other side five miles square. To have and enjoy all those lands, meadows, woods and other grounds, together with all waters and other benefits whatsoever now being or that may be within the compass of the aforesaid limits to us with our associates and our assigns forever.

"2. To be freed from all country charges for four years. And military exercises to be only in our own town, except extraordinary occasion require it.

"3. That such distribution or allotments of lands, meadows, woods, &c., within our said limits as are done and performed by the grantees, their successors, or such as shall be deputed thereunto, shall and may stand for good assurance unto the several possessors thereof and their assigns forever.

"4. That we may have countenance from this honored court for the well ordering of the nonage of our society according to the best rule. And to that purpose to assign unto us a constable that may regard peace and truth.

"5. To distinguish our town by the name of Contentment, or otherwise what you shall please.

"6. And lastly we entreat such other helps as your wisdoms shall know best in favor to grant unto us for our well improving of what we are thus entrusted withal unto our particular, but especially unto the general good of this whole weal public in succeeding times.

"Subscribed by all that have underwritten in covenant at present."

The nineteen men who signed this petition at the meeting at which it was unanimously adopted were: Edward Alleyne, Francis Austin, Thomas Bartlett, William Bearstowe, John Coolidge, Philemon Dalton, John Dwight, Richard Evered, John Gaye, Lambert Genere, Ezekiel Holliman, John Howard, John

Kingsbury, Samuel Morse, Nicholas Phillips, John Rogers, Abraham Shaw, Joseph Shaw and Ralph Shepherd. Some historians state that the petition was signed by nineteen inhabitants of the plantation, but as a matter of fact it was signed by twenty-two. The minutes of the meeting of September 5, 1636, state that "After ye assembly was dissolved Mr. Robte Feke came and subscribed his name unto ye said peticion. And Thomas Hastings and John Huggin did the like at Boston."

It appears that the petitioners lost no time in bringing the matter before the General Court, for on September 8, 1636, that body ordered that: "The plantation to be settled above Charles River shall have three years immunity from public charges, as Concord had, to be accounted from the first of May next; that the name of the town shall be Dedham; to enjoy all that land on the easterly and southerly side of the Charles River, not formerly granted unto any town or particular person; and also to have five miles square on the other side of the said river." It is from the date of this order that Dedham dates its incorporation as a town.

#### NAMING THE TOWN

Worthington's History of Dedham, published in 1827, says on page 31: "The celebrated John Rogers, of Dedham, in England, had been forbidden to preach before our first settlers came to this country. Many of his people emigrated to this country and several to this town. John Dwight and his son Timothy Dwight, John Rogers and John Page were of this number. From this circumstance we may suppose the General Court gave to this place the name of Dedham. The inhabitants requested the General Court to give it the name of Contentment, which name is written over the records of the first several meetings. It appears to me that the word well expresses the leading motives of the first twenty-four settlers in coming into this town."

#### ORIGINAL TERRITORY

The grant made to the Town of Dedham by the act of September 8, 1636, was princely in its proportions, though rather indefinite as to boundaries. South and east of the Charles River it embraced the present towns of Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Walpole, Westwood, Wrentham, and nearly all of Bellingham. On the north and west of the river it included Needham, Medway, Millis, Wellesley, that portion of Bellingham on that side of the river, and parts of Natick and Sherborn. On the east the town extended to the grant of land to Israel Stoughton and others, and it was not until nearly a century afterward that the Neponset River was made the boundary between Stoughton (now Canton) and Dedham. The boundary line between Dedham and the towns of Dorchester and Roxbury was not definitely established for several years. Dedham might be appropriately called the "Mother of Towns," as more than half the towns in Norfolk County were included within the limits of its original boundaries, as well as a large part of the towns of Natick and Sherborn, in the County of Middlesex, and portions of Hyde Park and West Roxbury, which have since been annexed to the City of Boston.

## A FEW PIONEERS

It is impossible, after a lapse of nearly three hundred years and in the absence of authentic records, to give the names of all the members of the first company that came to Dedham in 1635. The list of the signers of the covenant given above was compiled by Erastus Worthington in 1884. From this list and the annotations made by Mr. Worthington it can be determined with tolerable certainty that among those who came in each of the first three years of Dedham's history were the following:

1635—Edward Alleyn, Philemon Dalton, John Dwight, John Ellis (or Ellice, as it appears among the signers of the covenant), John Gay, John Howard, Samuel Morse and Ralph Shepherd.

1636—Thomas Alcock, William Bearstowe, Richard Evered, Lambert Genere, Ezekiel Holliman, John Kingsbury, Nicholas Phillips, John Rogers and Abraham Shaw.

1637—John Allin, Francis Chickering, Thomas Fisher, Eleazer Lusher, John Luson, Michael Metcalf, John Thurston, Thomas Wight and probably Hugh Stacey.

Concerning the character of these pioneers, especially those who came first, Worthington says: "This company of men seems from their subsequent conduct, to have been a portion of that mixed population collected at Watertown, who possessed good sense and moderate principles and were desirous of forming a peaceable society. They were Puritans, but by no means of high proof. This company did in substance at least say to their fellow townsmen, whom they were about to leave: 'Let there be no strife between us and thee, and between thy herdsmen and our herdsmen, for we be brethren; if you go to the right we will go to the left, for is not the whole country before us?'"

Edward Alleyn was unquestionably the leading man of the company. There is a tradition that he wrote the covenant, and that he was active in bringing the petition of September, 1636, before the General Court is well known. When the town was incorporated in response to that petition, he was chosen a member of the first board of selectmen and the first records of the town are in his handwriting. Upon the establishment of the first church in 1638, he experienced some difficulty in being admitted, owing to objections caused by rumors regarding his conduct in England. The objections were removed, however, as soon as Mr. Alleyn could procure evidence from the mother country. In 1639 he was elected a representative to the General Court and continued a member of that body until his death, which occurred suddenly on September 8, 1642.

Philemon Dalton was linen weaver by trade. He came over in the "Increase" in 1635 and located at Watertown. One account says he did not become a resident of Dedham until 1637, but as he was one of the first to sign the covenant and also the petition of 1636, it is certain that he was a member of the original company. About 1640 he went to Ipswich, where he died on June 4, 1662.

John Dwight first located at Watertown upon coming to America, but remained there only a short time before coming to Dedham. For sixteen years he served on the board of selectmen and it was from him that Dwight's Brook was named. His house stood near the brook, on High Street, and was removed in 1849 to make

way for the railroad bridge. He died on the last day of June, 1674. When he first came to Dedham he was accompanied by his family. One son, Timothy Dwight, was then about five years of age. He grew up in Dedham, was town clerk for ten years and selectman for twenty-four years. In 1678 and again in 1691 he was elected representative to the General Court. His death occurred on January 31, 1718.

Samuel Morse and his two sons—John and Daniel—were among those who came over in the "Increase" in 1635. He was one of the original proprietors of the plantation on the Charles River that afterward became the Town of Dedham. In 1641 he was elected a selectman and served for two years. He died on June 20, 1654.

Ralph Shepherd came in the "Abigail" in 1635 and located at Dedham in the same year. After a short residence he removed to Weymouth and from there to Malden. He then bought a farm at Concord and lived there for a few years, when he went to Charlestown. He died there on September 11, 1693.

William Bearstowe (correct family name "Barstow") was one of the passengers on the "Truelove" in 1635 and soon after landing he became interested in the Dedham movement. He was one of the signers of the petition for the incorporation of the town and afterward removed to Scituate. His brother George, who came over on the same vessel, in 1636 received an allotment of land in Dedham, but did not become a resident until several years later. He was a member of the Dedham artillery company for a time and then removed to Scituate.

Richard Evered was the founder of the American family bearing the name of Everett, of which Gov. Edward Everett was a distinguished member. He was elected one of the selectmen in 1661 and held the office for one year. His death occurred on July 3, 1682.

Ezekiel Holliman is mentioned in some of the early records as "a man of gifts and piety," though it seems he did not always conform to established customs. On March 12, 1638, he was "summoned" because "he did not frequent the public assemblies," and his case was referred by the court to the ministers for conviction. Previous to that time he had been fined for felling "one greate Timber tree for clapboards without his own lott," and also for covering his house with clapboards "contrary unto an order made in that behalfe." The following month the fines were remitted "in consideration of some moneyes disbursed by him for ye benefit of our Towne." About 1639 he removed to Salem and from there went to Rhode Island, where he became one of the founders of the first Baptist Church in America.

John Kingsbury came to Dedham from Watertown in 1636 and was one of the signers of the petition for the incorporation of the town. In 1639 he was elected one of the selectmen and served on the board for twelve years, and in 1647 he was elected representative to the General Court. He died in 1658.

Nicholas Phillips came to Dedham from Watertown and was one of the twenty-two men who signed the petition for incorporation. In August, 1639, he sold his property in Dedham to Rev. John Allin and removed to Weymouth. He died in September, 1672. His brother, Henry, who came about the same time, was a member of the artillery company in 1640, served as selectman in 1645, was an ensign in the militia company in 1648, and soon after that removed to Boston.

Abraham Shaw first settled at Watertown when he came to America. His house there was destroyed by fire soon after it was completed and he came to Dedham. The town granted him the privilege of erecting a water mill on the Charles River and gave him a tract of land for that purpose, but he died in 1638 before the work was commenced.

John Allin, who is further mentioned in the chapters on Church History, was born in England in 1596. Cotton Mather says he had been engaged in the ministry before coming to America, and because of his refusal to conform to all the ceremonies and requirements of the Church of England transplanted himself to New England. He was one of the founders of the first church in Dedham, of which he was installed pastor on April 24, 1639, a position he held until his death on August 26, 1671.

Francis Chickering came from Suffolk, England, in 1637 and located in Dedham soon after landing in America. In 1641 he was elected one of the selectmen of the town and continued in that office for fifteen years. He became a member of the artillery company in 1643. In 1644 and again in 1653 he was elected representative to the General Court. His death occurred on October 2, 1658.

Eleazer Lusher, another pioneer of 1637, was for many years one of the most prominent men in Dedham. Worthington says: "He was the leading man in all his lifetime and directed all the important affairs of the town." For twenty-three years he held the office of town clerk, and to his careful and painstaking manner of keeping the records the people of the present generation are indebted for a knowledge of early events. He was a member of the board of selectmen for twenty-nine years and he was also for many years a deputy to the General Court. Through his activity in organizing the Dedham Artillery Company he acquired the title of "major," and in many other ways he was influential in promoting the interests of the town. In 1670 he was appointed commissioner of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to revise and codify the laws, and in 1672 he was appointed to examine and classify historical papers. He died at Dedham on November 13, 1672.

Michael Metcalf, whose name appears as one of the selectmen in 1641, was born at Tatterford, Norfolk, England, in 1586. On July 14, 1637, he landed in Dedham. Two years later, soon after the First Church was organized, he was appointed one of the committee "to contrive the fabrick of a meeting house." He died on December 27, 1644. An old chest and a chair, both handsomely carved, that he brought with him from England are now among the collections of the Dedham Historical Society. His youngest son, Thomas Metcalf, afterward became a deacon in the church, and represented Dedham in the General Court in 1694 and again in 1697.

#### FIRST TOWN OFFICERS

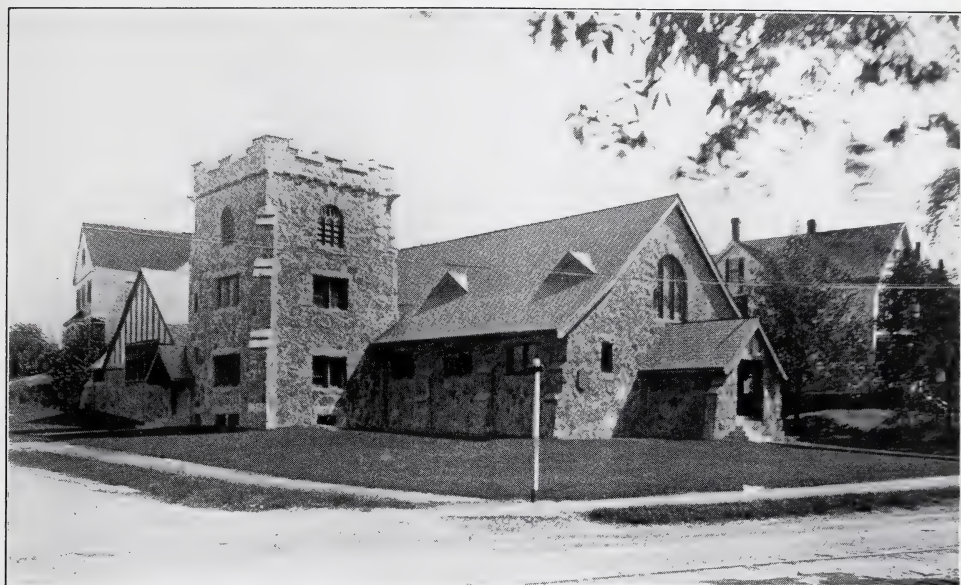
Although Dedham was incorporated as a town on September 8, 1636, no town officers were elected until May 17, 1639. At that time a board of selectmen composed of seven members was elected, to wit: Edward Allen (or Alleyn), John Bachelor, John Dwight, Robert Hinsdale, John Kingsbury, Eleazer Lusher and John Luson. Edward Allen was also chosen town clerk, which office he held until 1641, when he was succeeded by Eleazer Lusher.

## DEDHAM IN 1664

Erastus Worthington, writing in 1827, gives the following description of the village of Dedham, as it appeared twenty-nine years after the first settlement was established:

"In 1664 ninety-five small houses near each other were situated within a short distance of the place where the new court-house now stands; the greater part of them east of that place and around Dwight's Brook. A row of houses stood on the north side of High Street, as that road was then called, which extends from the bridge over Dwight's Brook westwardly toward the court-house. The total amount of the value of these houses was 691 pounds. Four only of the houses were valued at 20 pounds. The greater number were valued from three to ten pounds. The greatest number of these houses were built soon after the first settlement was commenced. There were then very few carpenters, joiners or masons in the colony. There was no saw mill in the settlement for many years. The only boards which could be procured at first were those which were sawed by hand. The saw pits, now seen, denote that boards were sawed in the woods. The necessary materials, bricks, glass and nails, were scarcely to be obtained. These houses therefore must have been principally constructed by farmers, not by mechanics, and have been very rude and inconvenient. They were probably log houses. Their roofs were covered with thatch. By an ordinance of the town, a ladder was ordered to extend from the ground to the chimney, as a substitute for a more perfect fire engine. Around these houses nothing was to be seen but stumps, clumsy fences of poles, and an uneven and unsubdued soil, such as all first settlements in New England present. The native forest trees were not suitable shades for a door yard. A shady tree was not then such an agreeable object as it now is, because it could form no agreeable contrast with cleared grounds.

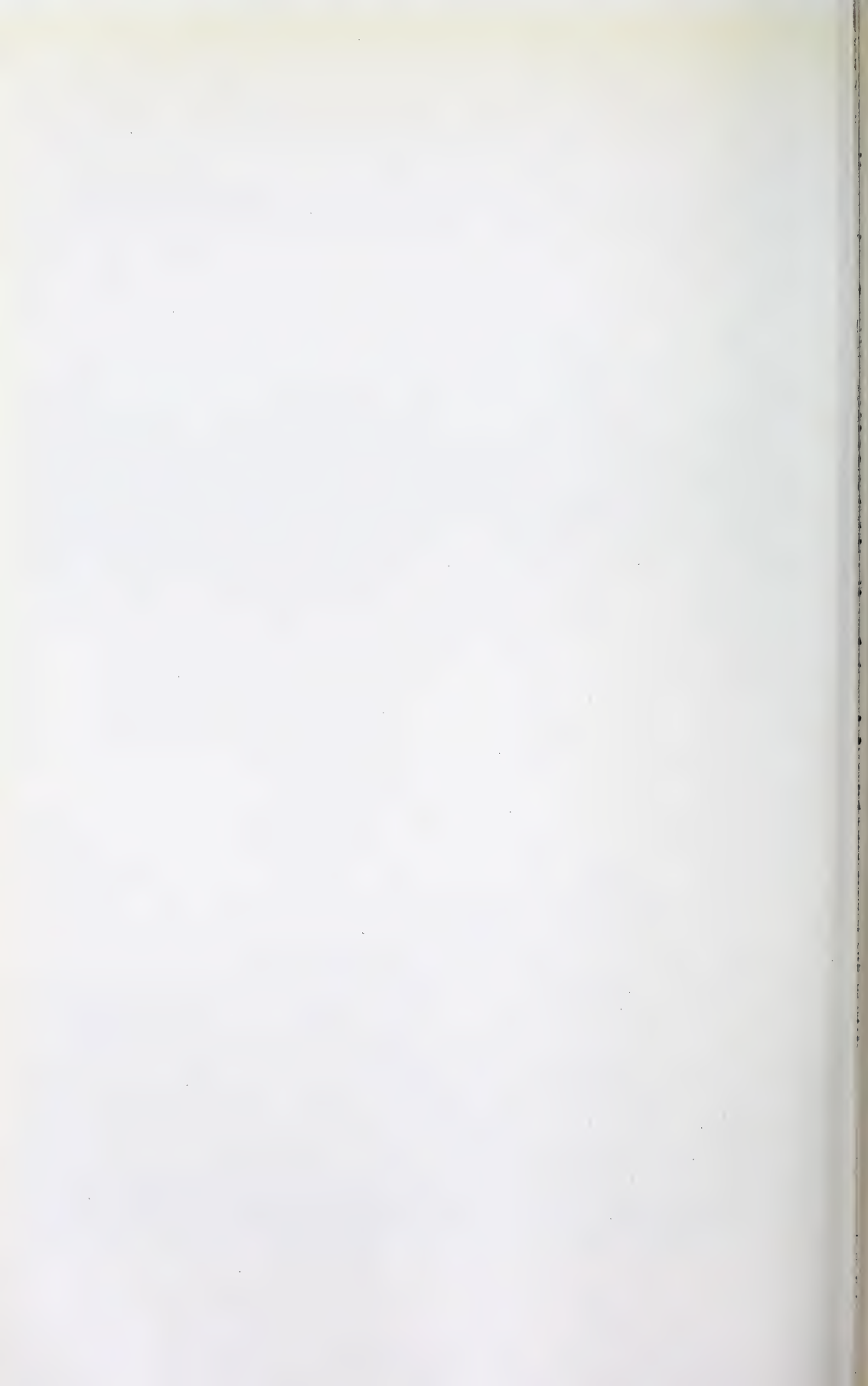
"Where the meeting house of the first parish now stands, there stood for more than thirty years a low building, thirty-six feet long and twenty wide, twelve feet high, with a thatched roof and a large ladder resting on it. This was the first meeting house. Near by was the school house, standing on an area of eighteen feet by fourteen, and rising to a height of three stories. The third story, however, was a watch house of small dimensions. The watch house was beside the ample stone chimney. The spectator elevated on the little box called the watch house, might view this plain, on which a part of the present village stands, then a common plough field, containing about two hundred acres of cleared land, partially subdued, yet full of stumps and roots. Around him at a farther distance were the 'herd walks,' as the common feeding lands were called in the language of that time. One of these herd walks was on Dedham Island north of the Charles River, and one was at East Street and more fully in view. The other herd walk was on South Plain. The herd walks were at first no better cultivated than cutting down the trees and carrying away the wood and timber, and afterwards, when it was practicable in the spring of the year, burning them over under the direction of town officers called 'wood reeves.' Land thus treated would in the spring appear barren, for nothing would be seen but black stumps, the burnt soil and the rocks. It would scarcely appear better when the wild grass and cropped shrubs next succeeded. The meadows were not yet cleared to any great extent. Beyond these herd walks was a continued wilderness, which was becoming more disagree-



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DEDHAM



NEW HIGH SCHOOL, DEDHAM



able to the inhabitants, for the cattle, goats and swine seem to have allured the wolves to their neighborhood. The dense swamps about Wigwam Swamp were not yet cleared. The numerous dogs in the plantation, which were so troublesome to the worshipping assembly, were not a sufficient guard against wolves. The inhabitants for many years after this period encouraged their hunters by additional bounties to destroy these troublesome enemies."

This description has been reproduced here at some length, because it gives a fair idea of the conditions that prevailed at the time, and of the collection of houses that then formed the village. By comparing it with the Dedham of 1917 the reader can note the progress of two and a half centuries.

#### TRAINING GROUND

In 1644 the town proprietors set apart the triangular piece of ground at the junction of what are now High and Common streets for the use of the military company. This action was confirmed some four years later, as shown by the following extract from the town records:

"7th Mo. 10, 1648. Granted to ye trayned company of this Town and to ye officers thereof and to their successors for ever the Free use of all that parcell of land comonly called the Trayning Ground always provided that the said Trayned Company & the officers thereof shall not at any time hereafter appropriate the said parcell of Land or any part thereof or improve the same to any other use than to the Publick exercise of ye said Company without the consent of ye Selectmen of ye Town for the time beeing first attayned. Neither shall it be in the Libertie or Power of the Selectmen hereafter at any time to dispose of ye said parcell of Land or any part thereof in any case without the consent of ye said Trayned Company & the officers thereof first had and Manifest."

By the common consent of the selectmen and the officers of the military company, one acre of the ground was granted to Amos Fisher in 1677, and at the same time Daniel Pond was given permission to cultivate one and a half acres, for which he was to pay "thirty shillings in merchantable corn." Other persons were likewise given permission to cultivate certain portions of the field from time to time, enough always being reserved for the use of the company as a drill ground.

In February, 1687, the voters of the town being assembled in town meeting, and the town being in need of funds, it was voted: "That if any appear to purchase the Trayning Ground & will give betwixt 30 and 40 pounds in money or not much less it may be sold if the trayned company the military officers and the Selectmen approve thereof." No buyer presented himself and the field still remained in the possession of the town and the military company. About 1773 an alms house was built on the western side of the ground and remained there until 1836, when the building, "together with the land and appurtenances thereto belonging," was sold by order of the town. Later a street was opened through the ground to connect with Bridge Street, and in 1842 the citizens planted the shade trees along the borders of the field.

#### EARLY MILLS

Realizing the importance of having some improved way of grinding their grain, one of the first acts of the Town of Dedham after its incorporation in 1636

was to grant to Abraham Shaw and his associates the privilege of building a mill on the Charles River. Shaw built a dam, which Mann says was located "about three-fourths of a mile southwest from the new bridge," but he died in 1638 before the mill was completed. The place where this dam was constructed is frequently referred to in the early town records as the "Old Mill," and it is possible that a mill of some kind was established there by some one after Mr. Shaw's death.

On March 28, 1639, it was ordered by a town meeting "That a ditch shalbe dug at common charge through Upper Charles meadow unto East Brook that it may both be a partition Fense in the same and alsoe may form a suitable course unto a Watermill that is if it shalbe found fitting to sett a mill upon in the opinion of a workman to be employed for that purpose."

The ditch thus excavated became known as Mother Brook. At the same meeting at which it was ordered the town granted liberty to any one who would undertake it, to build a mill upon the stream and also to give him a lot of land adjoining the mill. It is not certain who was the first to avail himself of the privilege, but the records show that in 1641 "a foot path is laid out to the mill," indicating that a mill had previously been built and was then in operation. Not long after the foot path was laid out John Dwight and Rev. John Allin conveyed the mill to Nathaniel Whiting. He and his heirs continued in possession of the mill privilege until about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, when it was sold to Benjamin Bussey.

In 1664 Ezra Morse and Daniel Pond asked the town for permission to erect a corn mill on Mother Brook, a short distance above the one owned by Mr. Whiting. Permission was granted and the mill erected, when it was discovered that it interfered with the rights of Whiting and a dispute arose, which finally resulted in the abatement of the new dam. This was the beginning of litigation over mill privileges and rights that went on for more than a century and a half, the last lawsuit of which there is any record having been settled early in the Nineteenth Century. Mann, in his "Annals of Dedham," says that soon after 1639, "Nathaniel Whiting and Ezra Morse became possessed of the principal mill seats in the town, and they have been held by their descendants to this day." That was written in 1847.

Joshua Fisher built a saw mill on the Neponset River in 1664, the town granting him liberal inducements to undertake the enterprise. It was on the southern border of the town and as part of the franchise agreement, Mr. Fisher agreed to saw timber for the citizens at a stipulated price. When Ezra Morse was driven from Mother Brook, he was granted a mill site on the Neponset, not far from Fisher's saw mill. This is no doubt the mill seat held by his descendants in 1847, as referred to by Mann. Draper & Fairbanks built a fulling mill on the Neponset in 1681. In 1700 the corn mill on Mother Brook, then owned by Timothy Whiting, was destroyed by fire and the town agreed to loan him twenty-five pounds, without interest, to rebuild it.

#### DEDHAM ISLAND

Northwest of the village of Dedham the Charles River flows around a neck of land, which in early days overflowed easily, owing to the slight fall of the river

at this point. Around the "horseshoe bend" of the river is a distance of almost five miles, while across the "heel" of the shoe the distance is less than three-fourths of a mile. To prevent damage to the meadows by overflows, the enterprising citizens of the town in 1652 conceived the idea of cutting a ditch across the neck, through the "Broad Meadows," thus uniting the two channels of the river and carrying off part of the water that came around the bend. Thomas Fuller and "Lieutenant" Fisher were employed to make a survey for the ditch, the construction of which converted the land inclosed in the bend into an island, since known as "Dedham Island." One of the first brick yards was established on the lot of Michael Metcalf on this island, and along the narrow strip of land at the westerly end of the island ran the "Long Causeway," upon which a road was located in 1644, leading to the Great Plain, in what is now the Town of Needham.

#### PETUMTUCK

In 1651 the General Court granted 2,000 acres for a new Indian town in Natick, in which were to be collected those Indians converted to Christianity by Rev. John Eliot and taught the arts of civilization. The land included in this grant was taken from Dedham, and the proprietors of the town were given the privilege of selecting 8,000 acres of any unlocated lands within the jurisdiction of the Court. Messengers were sent out to examine "the chestnut country" (believed to be somewhere near Lancaster, Worcester County), but they reported unfavorably. John Fairbanks and Lieut. Daniel Fisher were then sent to look at a tract on the Deerfield River, in what is now Franklin County. They passed through Sudbury, Lancaster and Hadley, all then infant settlements, and finally arrived at the valley. Upon their return Lieutenant Fisher reported as follows:

"We at length arrived at the place we sought after. We called it Petumtuck, because there dwell the Petumtuck Indians. Having ascended a little hill, apparently surrounded by rich meadow land, from that spot we beheld broad meadows extending far north, west and south of us. In these meadows we could trace the course of a fine river, which comes out from the mountains on the northwest, and running northerly through many miles of meadow, seemed to us to run in among the hills again at the northeast. The tall trees of buttonwood and elm exposed to us its course. That meadow is not soft and covered with coarse water grass like that around us here, but is hard land. It is the best land that we have seen in this colony. We dug holes in the meadow, with the intent to find the depth of the soil, but could not find the bottom. At the foot of the little hill we stood on is a plat of ground sufficiently large to build a village upon, and sufficiently high to be out of the reach of the spring floods. Providence led us to that place. It is indeed far away from our plantations and the 'Canaanites and Amalekites dwell in that valley,' and if they have any attachment to any spot on earth, must delight to live there. But that land must be ours. Our people have resolute and pious hearts and strong hands to overcome all difficulties. Let us go and possess the land, and in a few years you will hear more boast of it in this colony as a good land for flocks and herds than could ever be justly said of the land of Goshen, or any part of the land of Canaan."

Fisher's optimism so impressed the people that they immediately appointed

a committee of six to repair to the place and cause the 8,000 acres to be located there. Capt. John Pynchon of Springfield was employed to purchase the lands of the Indians. He procured four deeds of relinquishment from the natives, for which they received ninety-four pounds and ten shillings. The tract afterward became known as the "Pynchon Purchase." In the records the name Petumtuck is spelled in various ways, but the one here used is the most common. In 1670 the number of proprietors of the new purchase was twenty-six, twenty of whom were inhabitants of Dedham. The tract was afterward incorporated as the Town of Deerfield.

#### OLD-TIME TAVERNS

The first mention of a public house of entertainment in the town records is in the minutes of a town meeting held in 1646, when Michael Powell was licensed to keep a taven, the location of which is now uncertain. Powell was at that time the town clerk.

Woodward's Tavern stood on High Street, where the Registry Building now stands. The exact date when the house was opened cannot be ascertained. In 1658 it passed into the hands of Joshua Fisher, who received a license from the town authorities to conduct a public house. He was succeeded by his son, who conducted the tavern for several years. About 1735 Dr. Nathaniel Ames became the landlord. His son, Fisher Ames, was born in this house on April 9, 1758. Richard Woodward assumed the management in 1769 or 1770. It was in this house that the committee drafted the resolutions in September, 1774, declaring in favor of armed resistance to Great Britain if it became necessary, the first open declaration of that character made by any of the colonists. The building was torn down in 1817.

Gay's Tavern, which stood on Court Street near Highland, and Howe's Tavern, farther north on the same street, were two noted hostelries in their day. The former, of which Timothy Gay was owner and proprietor, was a sort of political headquarters for years during the early history of Norfolk County. About 1803 the building was removed to the northwest corner of High and Washington streets, where it and several of the adjoining buildings were destroyed by fire on October 30, 1832. About sixty horses belonging to the Citizens Stage Company perished in the fire. The tavern was rebuilt by Mr. Gay, who christened the new building the "Phoenix House." It was opened in 1834 with James Bride as the landlord, and soon came to be widely known as "Bride's Tavern." At the time it was completed it was the finest hotel in Norfolk County and in its appointments rivaled some of the leading hotels of Boston. Under different names and different managers the house continued to do a good business until it was again burned to the ground on the morning of December 25, 1880. Among the distinguished guests of this hotel were Gen. Andrew Jackson, while President of the United States, and President James Monroe.

In 1801 Martin Marsh leased part of the Ezekiel Holliman tract and built a tavern on Court Street, almost opposite the court-house. It was opened in 1804, about the time the Norfolk & Bristol turnpike was completed, and soon became a popular stopping place for stage passengers. Mr. Marsh was a mason by trade and also a member of the Masonic fraternity. Some of the first meetings of Con-

stellation Lodge were held in a room in his tavern. In June, 1818, he sold out to Moses Gragg and Francis Alden, who renamed the house the "Norfolk Hotel." It was opened under the new management with a grand dinner on July 4, 1818. In the latter '40s the place lost much of its former reputation through dances, etc., that respectable people declined to attend, and the greater part of its patronage was diverted to the Phoenix House. In May, 1849, most of the furniture was sold at auction, and the next year a man named Stimson leased the house and started a dancing school. On June 1, 1866, the building was sold to the trustees of St. Mary's School and Asylum. This institution was closed in June, 1879. After that the house was occupied by various persons and used for various purposes until June, 1905, when it was bought by Charles H. Gifford. A few years later Mr. Gifford sold the property to Walter Austin, the present owner.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the first three years of Dedham's existence as a town, no attention was paid to precautionary measures against fire. But at a town meeting in 1639 the following action was taken: "For the prevention of damage that might arise by fire vpon any house in our Towne it is Ordered that every Housholder in our Towne shall forth with pvide & mayntaine one good stronge & Sufficient Lader that may be sufficient in all respects for the speedie & safe attayneing to ye toppe of ye Chimney of his house vpon ocasioness which sayd Laders shall be kept in possession at against or neere the house or Chimney wher fire is vsually made & for the greater care heere in as in a case of so greate Concernm<sup>t</sup> it is further ordered that who so ever being an housholder in our Towne shall fayle in any the pticulers aforesaide for the space of fourteene dayes together shall forfeit vnto ye Towne & the vse there of ye sum of Five Shillings," etc.

Coming down to more modern times, Engine No. 1, called the "Hero," was presented to the town in January, 1801, and was named by a company of volunteers composed of Eliphalet Baker, Jr., Jesse Clapp, Elisha Crehore, David Dana, Paul Fisher, Amasa Guild, Reuben Guild, Reuben Newell, James Noyes, Eli Parsons, Reuben Richards and Calvin Whiting. It was located at what was known as the "Upper Village."

Engine Company No. 2 was organized about this time, and in April 1802, was presented with the engine "Good Intent," which was purchased by the inhabitants of the town by subscription. It was stationed in the "Centre Village." The first Good Intent company was made up of the following: Abner Atherton, John Bullard, Jr., William Bullard, Francis Child, Josiah Daniels, Abner Ellis, Stephen Farrington, George Gay, John Guild, Nathaniel Guild, William Howe, Herman Mann, Sr., Thaddeus Mason, Martin Marsh, James Richardson, Edward Russell, Jesse Stowell and Seth Sumner.

In 1826 the "Enterprise" was purchased by subscription and located in the Upper Mill Village, but the members of the company that first handled it can not be learned. The three engines mentioned constituted the town's fire department until at a special meeting held in December, 1831 the sum of \$1,500 was voted "for the purchase of fire engines and apparatus for extinguishing fires." The appropriation was to be divided among the several school districts, in proportion to the taxes paid by each, though any two adjoining districts were given

permission to unite their proportion of the funds. The appropriation of this sum had the effect of multiplying the number of fire companies and engines in the town from three to eleven. Six of the engines were located in the First Parish, two in the Second and three in the Third.

On May 4, 1846, the town voted to raise the sum of \$2,500 for the erection of engine houses "and for placing the Fire Department in a more efficient state for service." David A. Baker, George Ellis and Samuel C. Mann, of the first parish, Joseph Day, of the second, and Merrill D. Ellis, of the third, were appointed a committee to carry the order into effect. Under the supervision of this committee Dedham's first engine houses were erected.

Since 1846 the department has been developed little by little to keep pace with the growth of the town. This work of development has been made easier in some respects by the organization of new towns that took away some of Dedham's territory, so that the department now does not have to cover so wide a field. The first steam fire engine was installed in 1873, and at the same time the town expended \$2,500 in the purchase of new hose. A new engine house was also built in that year. According to the report of the board of fire engineers—Henry J. Harrigan, John E. Shaughnessy and W. E. Patenaude—for the year 1916, there were then in service one engine company, two hook and ladder companies and four hose companies, and the cost of maintaining the department for the year was \$19,274.42.

#### DEDHAM WATER COMPANY

A few years after the close of the Civil War in 1865, the citizens of Dedham became interested in the subject of some system of waterworks for the town, as a means of extinguishing fires and obtaining a supply of water for domestic purposes. Nothing was accomplished, however, until April 11, 1876, when the Legislature passed an act incorporating the Dedham Water Company. The incorporators named in the act were: Edward S. Rand, Jr., Waldo Colburn, Winslow Warren, E. Worthington, Royal O. Storrs, William Bullard, Ira Cleveland, Edward Stimson, Thomas Sherwin, J. P. Maynard, Thomas L. Wakefield, L. H. Kingsbury, F. D. Ely, John R. Bullard and Charles C. Loring. The act authorized the above named stockholders, "their associates and successors," to take water from the "Charles River, Buckmaster Pond, or any other natural pond or ponds, spring or springs, brook or brooks within the Town of Dedham."

It was also provided in the act of incorporation that the capital stock should not exceed \$200,000, of which the town was given authority to hold one-fourth. No further action was taken for about five years and little interest was manifested in the project until after the dry seasons of 1879 and 1880, when the water in many of the wells failed, and this stimulated the company to do something toward the establishment of a system of waterworks. A meeting of the incorporators was held early in the fall of 1880, the capital stock was fixed at \$75,000, and the following officers were elected: Royal O. Storrs, president; Winslow Warren, secretary; Erastus Worthington, treasurer. Percy M. Blake was then employed as civil engineer to examine the field and report upon the best plan for obtaining a supply of water and the cost of constructing works. He made his report on December 28, 1880, recommending the Charles River as the most available source,



MEMORIAL HALL, DEDHAM



PUBLIC LIBRARY, DEDHAM



with a large "filter well" on the southerly side of the river near Bridge Street, from which water could be pumped to a standpipe on Walnut Street, and from the standpipe distributed to the different parts of the town. He estimated that a plant of this character could be built for less than the amount of the capital stock, which in the meantime had all been subscribed.

The plan recommended by Mr. Blake was adopted and work was commenced as soon as practicable in 1881. Kendall & Roberts were awarded the contract for the construction of the standpipe; Goodhue & Birnie, for laying the mains through the streets; and the Knowles Pump Company, for the pumping station and machinery. The diameter of the standpipe was increased from fifteen to twenty feet, and some other changes were made in the original plans, which brought the total cost of the works up to about ninety-two thousand dollars. The first public test was made early in December, 1881, and a few days later the water was turned into the mains for general use.

On January 1, 1917, the company had about forty-one miles of mains and was supplying water to more than two thousand customers. The daily consumption of water is over one million gallons. Some years ago the old filter well was abandoned and the water is now taken from driven wells. The result of this change has been a great improvement in the quality of the water, which has been approved by the Massachusetts State Board of Health.

#### MEMORIAL HALL

At a town meeting held on March 6, 1865, the question of erecting a monument to the soldiers from Dedham who served in the Union army during the War of the Rebellion came up for discussion and was referred to the following committee: Ira Cleveland, E. Burgess, Comfort Weatherbee, Eliphalet Stone, Ebenezer F. Gay and J. N. Stevens. At an adjourned meeting on April 6, 1865, the committee reported in favor of the erection of a granite monument, "decorated with military emblems and provided with proper tablets for the inscription of the names, ages and date of the death of all who have died, with the names of the battlefields on which they have fallen, or the hospitals or prisons where they have died." Franklin Square was recommended as the location for the monument, which the committee estimated could be erected at an expense of from four to six thousand dollars.

As the war had not yet come to a close, no action was taken upon the report of the committee, the meeting deciding to wait until peace was restored. On May 7, 1866, at an adjourned town meeting, it was voted to build a "Memorial Hall," with walls of granite on the lot bounded by Church, High and Centre (now Washington) streets, in Dedham Village, "to provide a suitable place for the transaction of the town's business and a memorial to the soldiers of Dedham who died in the service of the United States during the War of the Rebellion."

A building committee of five was chosen, viz.: Waldo Colburn, Augustus B. Endicott, William Ames, Addison Boyden and Merrill D. Ellis. The town treasurer was authorized to borrow, with the consent of the selectmen, a sum not exceeding thirty-five thousand dollars for the erection of the building. Ware & Van Brunt of Boston were employed as architects. Prior to this time the lot had been purchased with a fund raised by subscription and placed in the hands of

James Foord as trustee. The building is 64 by 104 feet, two stories high, with the town offices on the first floor and a large hall on the second. There is also an attic story, which has been used for several years by the Masonic lodge. In the main corridor on the first floor are the marble memorial tablets bearing the names of the Dedham soldiers who lost their lives in defense of the Union. On March 2, 1868, the town treasurer was authorized to borrow \$12,000 more to complete the building, which was dedicated on September 29, 1868, Bates' and Gilmore's bands furnishing the music and Erastus Worthington delivering the dedicatory address. On the front wall, facing Washington Street, upon a panel of Quincy granite, is the following inscription:

To Commemorate  
The Patriotism and Fidelity  
Of Her Sons  
Who Fell  
In Defence of the Union  
In the War  
Of the Rebellion  
Dedham  
Erects This Hall  
A.D.  
MDCCCLXVII.

This is said to be the first Memorial Hall, or monument of any description, erected to the memory of Union soldiers in the United States.

#### THE TOWN SEAL

No common seal for the Town of Dedham was adopted until the town meeting of April, 1878, at which it was voted to adopt a seal, with the following device, to wit: "In the centre of the foreground a shield, upon which is inscribed the representation of an ancient oak; on the right of the background the representation of a factory building; on the left the implements of agriculture; above, the sword and scales of justice; and beneath, in a scroll the motto, 'Contentment;' in the upper semicircle of the border, 'The Town of Dedham,' and in the lower semicircle, 'Plantation begun 1635, Incorporated 1636.'"

It was also ordered that when the seal was executed it should remain in the custody of the town clerk. The design originated with a member of the Dedham Historical Society and was approved by that society before it was presented to the town for adoption. The oak was intended to represent the "Avery Oak," a further account of which is given in the chapter on "Historic Landmarks." The factory and agricultural implements portray the occupations of the inhabitants. The sword and scales signify that Dedham is the shire town of the county, and the motto—Contentment—serves as a reminder that it was the name selected by the first inhabitants of the settlement.

#### POSTOFFICES

For a number of years after Dedham was settled, letters were carried by private individuals or received and delivered at the Boston postoffice, which was established by order of the General Court on November 5, 1639, with Richard

Fairbanks as postmaster. From that time until 1693 the postal service of Dedham was altogether under Massachusetts authority. On May 1, 1693, Andrew and John Hamilton received a royal patent to establish mail communications between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and New York. Subsequently the route was extended to Williamsburg, Virginia. The first mailrider carried the mail from Portsmouth to Boston. There the second took it and passed through Roxbury, Dedham, Rehoboth, Bristol and Newport to Saybrook, where he met the rider from New York. The Hamiltons continued to operate the route until 1707, when their patent was annulled and the crown controlled the mail service until December, 1775. After the Government of the United States was established, the mail route came under its jurisdiction. The first mention of a mail coach passing through Dedham was in 1785. The line of coaches between Boston and the West was organized by Eben Hazard, who lived at Jamaica Plain, and continued in operation until 1835. The railroad was opened to Dedham in 1836 and the old mail coach line went out of business.

The first postoffice was established at Dedham in 1793, with Jeremiah Shuttleworth as postmaster. Mann's *Annals of Dedham* states that on April 1, 1801, "letters are advertised as remaining in the postoffice in this town for people in the towns of Dedham, Medway, Bellingham, Medfield, Dover, Foxborough, Walpole, Hopkinton, Sharon, Canton, Franklin, Kittery, Stoughton, Sherburne and Cohasset."

From this it can be seen that Dedham was the postal center for a large district. It would be interesting to know who some of the early postmasters were—or the early persons in charge of the station under the Hamilton regime—but many of the postoffice department records were destroyed by the burning of the national capitol and other public buildings in Washington by the British in the War of 1812, and it may be that the lack of information is due in a measure to this fact.

In 1917 the Dedham Postoffice reported annual receipts of over seventeen thousand dollars. The office then employed thirteen people, including the branch at East Dedham. Edmond H. Bowler was then postmaster and the East Dedham branch was under the management of Fred A. Campbell.

#### THE DEDHAM OF THE PRESENT

Erastus Worthington, writing of the town in 1884, said: "The local business of Dedham, except in the woolen mills, has substantially passed away. The sessions of the courts and the transaction of other public business at the shire town of the county, still bring people to Dedham, but these come by one railway train only to leave by the next departing train. The hotels, once the centers of social life and gayety, have disappeared. Dedham village is mainly a place of residence for those whose business is in Boston. These constitute the main body of its most valued citizens, and upon them and upon the interest which they may take in its local affairs, must chiefly depend its future character and prosperity."

Since that was written but little change has come to the town. In 1910 the population was 9,284, and in 1915, according to the state census, it was 11,043, a gain of 1,759 in five years. The assessed valuation of the property in 1916 was \$16,722,310. Its schools, churches, public library, business interests, etc., are treated in other chapters of this work. Its principal attractions are its well-kept streets, beautiful shade trees and cozy homes.

## CHAPTER XVI

### THE TOWN OF DOVER

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—TOPOGRAPHY—EARLY SETTLERS—POLITICAL HISTORY  
—THE PRECINCT—SPRINGFIELD PARISH—THE DISTRICT—THE TOWN—FIRST  
OFFICERS—TOWN HALL—TOWN SEAL—POSTOFFICES—FIRE DEPARTMENT—EARLY  
TAVERNS—THE TOWN NAME—SUNDRY INCIDENTS—DOVER IN 1917.

Dover is situated in the north central part of Norfolk County. It is bounded on the north by the towns of Wellesley and Needham; on the east by Westwood; on the south by Medfield and Walpole; and on the west by Natick and Sherborn, two towns of Middlesex County. For about ten and a half miles the Charles River forms the boundary line of the town, separating it from Sherborn and from Wellesley and Needham.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

The word "hilly" might be used to describe generally the surface, though there are also some fertile valleys, in which are located some of the finest farms in Norfolk County. Several of the largest hills have been designated by names.

Pine Rock Hill, the highest in the town, rises to a height of 449 feet above sea level and is the highest elevation in the county except the Blue Hill range in Milton. From its summit a fine view of the surrounding country can be obtained and on a clear day vessels can be seen in Massachusetts Bay.

Pegan Hill, so named for an ancient tribe of Indians, lies on the boundary line between Dover and Natick. It is 420 feet high and from its top can be seen the state house in Boston, Bunker Hill monument, and some twenty villages. Around the base of this hill are attractive homes and fertile farms.

Strawberry Hill, in the eastern part of the town, received its name because in early days its sides were covered with wild strawberry vines. Its summit is 200 feet above the Charles River.

In the southern part are Cedar and Oak Hills, the former 400 and the latter 360 feet high. Here there are fine deposits of granite. From the quarries in these hills was taken the stone for the court-house at Dedham, the Dedham Memorial Hall, the asylum at Medfield and several other public buildings.

Big Brook, so named in the early Dedham records, is the largest stream in the town and flows in a westerly direction into the Charles River.

Clay Brook received its name because the early settlers in the vicinity took clay from its banks to be used in the construction of the dwelling houses.

There are two streams called Mill Brook. One rises in Dedham and flows in a southerly course to the Charles River, and the other rises in Dover and flows in southerly direction into the Town of Medfield.

Noanet Brook rises in the southern part of the town and flows northwardly, emptying into the Charles River not far from Charles River Village. It is the outlet of Reserve Pond, which originally covered some twenty acres of land. In the early land transactions Noanet Brook played an important part, defining boundaries of grants to settlers. It was named for an Indian chief.

Trout Brook, west of Noanet and flowing in the same general direction, has its source in the Boiling Springs and takes its name from the great numbers of trout which formerly sported in its pure waters.

In the southeastern part of the town is Great Spring, one of the largest in the county and furnishing a never-failing supply of the purest water. Its outlet, called Tubwreck Brook, is a tributary of the Neponset River. This stream derived its name in a curious manner. One spring, when the brook was much higher than usual, Capt. James Tisdale embarked in a half hogshead for the purpose of floating down the brook to gather flood cranberries. The novel craft was capsized and from this incident the little creek became known as "Tubwreck Brook."

#### EARLY SETTLERS

So far as can be learned, the first settler within the limits of the present Town of Dover was Henry Wilson, a native of Kent, England, who came to Dedham in 1640. He received a grant of land, along with the other settlers, but never built upon it, preferring to go farther west, and he established his home in the easterly part of the town, not far from the Westwood line. He married and brought his wife to the new home in the wilderness, and here their first child, Michael Wilson, was born in 1644, probably the first white child to be born in the town. Game of all kinds was plentiful in those days, and it is said that Mr. Wilson, upon awakening in the morning after the first night spent in his new house, was surprised to see a huge wildcat looking in at the window.

The first settler in the western part was doubtless Thomas Battle (spelled Battelle in some of the early records), who built his house on the Clay Brook Road, not far from the Natick line. In 1687 he received another grant of land consisting of "half an acre of upland and meadow bottom as it lieth his own land near the Great Brook, near Natick, bounded by his own land southeast the way to the brook, and by the brook in all other parts." Mr. Battle was elected one of the selectmen of Dedham in 1677 and served in that capacity for five years. He then held for two years the office of town clerk.

In 1682 Thomas Battle sold a portion of his land to James Draper, of Roxbury, whose son John married in 1686 and it is believed he settled in Dover soon after his marriage. Some years prior to that time a road had been opened from Medfield to South Natick, and several settlers located along the line of this road. Nathaniel Chickering came from England in 1681 and within a few years, by grant and purchase, became the owner of about one thousand acres of land, part of which lay within the present Town of Dover. He settled in Dover in 1694, but did not live to occupy the house he built, his death occurring on the 21st of October of that year. His widow and children moved into the house and some of his descendants still live in the town.

Roving bands of Indians were a great source of annoyance to the Dover pioneers. For protection and defense they built a fort of thick white oak plank, in

two walls, filling in between them with brick. Small windows were left at intervals through which the settlers could fire upon their assailants. The fort stood near the road leading from Medfield to Natick, on the high land overlooking the Charles River. It was torn down in the spring of 1800.

#### POLITICAL HISTORY

Dover was a part of Dedham for nearly a century after the latter town was incorporated in 1635. About 1725 the inhabitants of the western part of Dedham reached the conclusion that they should be freed from the rates for the support of the minister at Dedham and permitted to build a meeting house of their own. Nothing was done, however, until March 3, 1728, when they petitioned the Dedham town meeting to be set off as a precinct, with the following bounds: "Beginning at Bubbling Brook, where it crosses the Medfield road; thence, taking in the lands of Samuel Chickering, to the westerly end of Nathaniel Richards' house lot, and so down to the Charles River, with all the lands and inhabitants westerly of said line."

The town granted the request of the petitioners on November 9, 1729, but almost immediately the inhabitants developed an ambition to be set off as a separate and distinct precinct by the General Court. Consequently, on November 19, 1729, a petition, signed by Jonathan Battle and others, was presented to the Court making that request. The petition was referred to a committee, which reported on December 2, 1729, in favor of freeing the petitioners and their neighbors from paying the minister rate in Dedham. The report was accepted and an act passed providing that "Samuel Chickering and twelve others should attend church at Medfield, Ralph Day and four others the church at Needham, and Eleazer Ellis and thirteen others the church at Natick."

Under this act the territory referred to in the petition became the Fourth Dedham Precinct. An old tax list of the precinct for the year 1732, three years after it was set off, shows the names of the following property holders, a few of whom may have been non-residents: Aaron Allen, Benjamin Allen, Eleazer Allen, Hezekiah Allen, Moses Allen, John Bacon, Michael Bacon, Jonathan Battle, Jonathan Battle, Jr., Nathaniel Battle, — Battle (widow), Jonathan Bullard, John Bullard, Nathaniel Bullard, John Bullin, Eliphalet Chickering, Nathaniel Chickering, Samuel Chickering, Ralph Day, John Draper, John Draper, Jr., Joseph Draper, Benjamin Ellis, Caleb Ellis, Eleazer Ellis, James Ellis, Jonathan Ellis, John Fisher, Joshua Fisher, Mrs. Jonathan Gay (widow), Abraham Harding, Ebenezer Knapp, Samuel Leach, Ebenezer Mason, Jonathan Mason, Seth Mason, Seth Mason, Jr., Thomas Mason, Joseph Merrifield, David Morse, Nathaniel Morse, Mattis Ockinson, Jonathan Plimpton, John Rice, Ebenezer Robinson, Ephraim Ware, Jr., Jonathan Whiting, David Wight, Ephraim Wight, Samuel Wight, Nathaniel Wilson.

For nearly twenty years no change was made in the conditions relating to attendance at church, the people being content to worship in other towns, but in 1747 another appeal was made to the General Court to be established a distinct precinct, the act of 1729 merely freeing the people from paying the minister rate in Dedham without conferring full precinct privileges. Those who attended church at Medfield and South Natick opposed the movement and sent in a remonstrance. Some time was spent in winning over some of those opponents and on April 5,

1748, a petition for a precinct organization was presented to the General Court. It was dated at "Dedham, March 30, 1748," and was signed by the following residents of the territory it was proposed to include in the new precinct: Samuel Metcalf, Joshua Ellis, Hezekiah Allen, Jr., Ebenezer Newell, Thomas Merrifield, Jonathan Battle, Ralph Day, John Draper, Samuel Chickering, Josiah Ellis, Jonathan Day, Nathaniel Wilson, Ezra Gay, Timothy Ellis, Thomas Battle, Jonathan Bullard, Thomas Richards, Seth Mason, Joseph Chickering, Eliphalet Chickering, Jabez Wood, Oliver Bacon, John Bacon, Joseph Draper, Benjamin Ellis, David Wight, John Cheney, John Chickering, John Battle, Josiah Richards, Jonathan Whiting, Daniel Chickering, John Griggs, Abraham Chamberlain.

On November 18, 1748, the General Court granted the prayer of the petitioners and the precinct now became the Fourth, or Springfield, Parish, with "all the powers and privileges which precincts were entitled to enjoy." Two days later the warrant was issued for the first precinct meeting, but as the General Court failed to nominate any one to notify the inhabitants, Joshua Ellis, a justice of the peace, warned the people to assemble at 10 o'clock A. M. on January 4, 1749, at the school house near the residence of Joseph Chickering "to choose a moderator, precinct clerk, and a committee to call parish meetings." At that meeting Joshua Ellis was elected moderator and later precinct clerk. The committee to call meetings consisted of Joshua Ellis, Joseph Chickering, Joseph Draper, Samuel Metcalf and Samuel Chickering.

At a precinct meeting held on March 15, 1749, Jonathan Whiting was elected precinct treasurer, and the following committee was chosen to prepare timber for a meeting house: Hezekiah Allen, Daniel Chickering, Joseph Draper, Jonathan Day and Samuel Metcalf. Captain Allen, the chairman of the committee, was a carpenter by trade. This committee was instructed to prepare the materials for a meeting house "forty-two feet long, thirty-four feet wide, and twenty feet high from the top of ye cel to ye top of ye plate."

Another meeting was held on March 24, 1749, at which an effort was made to choose a site for the meeting house. Two sites were proposed—one on the hill near Morse's swamp, and the other on the hill south of John Battle's house. The meeting then adjourned to give the voters an opportunity to inspect the two locations proposed. Upon reassembling in the afternoon the question was submitted and resulted in a tie vote. It was then decided to leave the selection of a site to a committee of five, each member of which was to be a resident of some other town. The committee finally selected was composed of Thomas Greenwood, of Newton; Joseph Williams, of Roxbury; Joseph Hewins, of Stoughton; Elkanah Billings, of Dorchester; and Joseph Ware, of Sherborn. After viewing the different localities suggested, the committee reported in favor of "the hill east of Trout Brook," which report was accepted by the precinct "after much debate." A further history of this parish will be found in the chapters on Church History.

With the exception of the church rates, the people of Springfield Parish still paid taxes to Dedham. At times these taxes became rather burdensome and some of the inhabitants of the parish began to talk of separation. Then came the Revolution and all thoughts of a new town were for the time forgotten in the great struggle for independence. As the war drew to a close the subject was revived and on October 10, 1780, a precinct meeting voted "that we desire

to be incorporated into a town." On February 16, 1781, another meeting was held, at which Col. John Jones, Capt. Hezekiah Allen, John Reed, Capt. Hezekiah Battle and Thomas Burrige were appointed a committee to prepare a petition for presentation to the Town of Dedham, asking to be set off from that town. At a Dedham town meeting held on June 4, 1781, the petition was granted upon the following conditions: "The question was put whether the town will consent that the Fourth Precinct in said town may be incorporated into a township, the said town relinquishing their right or share in the workhouse, school money, all donations, and other public privileges in said town. Passed in the affirmative."

The conditions were accepted by the people of the Fourth Precinct on September 17, 1781, when they voted to relinquish all their rights in or claims to the property of the Town of Dedham, provided they were incorporated into a separate town by the General Court. Col. John Jones, Joseph Haven and John Reed were appointed to present a petition for incorporation to the next session of the General Court. The petition was accordingly presented on January 16, 1782, and passed the house, but on April 23, 1782, it was defeated in the senate.

Another petition was presented to the General Court on March 17, 1784. In it the following reasons were given for asking that the precinct be incorporated as a town:

"Those of our members that have attended town meetings in Dedham have been obliged to travel between four and ten miles out and as far home, to attend in the First Precinct, the constant place of town meetings in said town; and, by reason of the extra distance, the badness of the ways, and sometimes deep snow and stormy seasons, there hath not been more than two or three of said Fourth Precinct at their town meetings when matters of great weight are transacted. And a considerable part of said precinct are wearied with such unreasonable toil and travel, and determined several years ago never to attend another town meeting in said place again, and still adhere to their determination, whereby the interest of the said Fourth Precinct has frequently suffered, and probably sometimes not from any unreasonable desire in the other precincts to infringe on the interest of the said Fourth Precinct, saving that the said Fourth Precinct has never been able to obtain a town meeting in rotation within their limit. That the extra expense and charges that would be incurred by their being incorporated into a town would be fully compensated by their negotiating their affairs within themselves and without much travel; and, although the said precincts are not many in number or opulent and wealthy, they are considerably filled with inhabitants and are increasing. But if they were fewer in number and of less ability, they are under the absolute necessity of being incorporated into a town by reason of their irregular form and distance from the other precincts."

A committee of the General Court took the petition under consideration and reported that "in view of the smallness of the population, the request should not be granted." Having thus failed to secure the incorporation of a town, the people of the parish voted unanimously on June 28, 1784, to ask the General Court to incorporate them into a district as by that means they could be united with some other town in the election of a representative to the General Court. A petition to this effect was presented to the General Court and resulted in the passage of the following act, which was approved on July 7, 1784:

## "COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

"In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-four.

"An Act for erecting a District within the County of Suffolk by the name of Dover.

"Whereas, the inhabitants of the Fourth Precinct in the Town of Dedham in said County have repeatedly and earnestly petitioned this Court that they may be incorporated into a district, and it appears that they labor under great difficulties in their present situation;

"Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the said Fourth Precinct in Dedham be, and it hereby is, incorporated into a district by the name of Dover, with all the powers, privileges and immunities of incorporated districts; provided, that the freeholders and inhabitants of the said District of Dover shall pay their proportion of all taxes now assessed by and debts due from the said Town of Dedham, and that the said District of Dover relinquish all their rights, title and interest in and to the workhouse, school money and all donations, and other public privileges in said Town of Dedham.

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the polls and estates in said District of Dover that were returned by the assessors for the said Town of Dedham on the last valuation, which then belonged to said Town of Dedham, be deducted from the return made by the said assessors and be placed to the said District of Dover until another valuation shall be taken.

"And be it further enacted that Stephen Metcalf, Esq., be and is hereby empowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant within the said District of Dover, requiring him to warn the freeholders and other inhabitants within the said District of Dover, qualified to vote in district affairs, to assemble at some suitable time and place in the said district, to choose such officers as shall be necessary to manage the affairs of said district.

"And be it further enacted that the selectmen of the Town of Dedham, fifteen days at least before the time of choosing a representative for the said town, shall give notice of the time and place by them ordered for that purpose in writing, under their hands, to the selectmen of said District of Dover, to the intent the selectmen of said district may issue their warrant to the constable or constables of the said district, to warn the inhabitants thereof to meet with the said Town of Dedham at time and place so appointed for the choice of a representative.

"In the House of Representatives, July 6, 1784.

"This bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

"SAMUEL A. OTIS, Speaker.

"In the Senate, July 7, 1784.

"This bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

"SAMUEL ADAMS, President.

"Approved, JOHN HANCOCK."

Under the laws of Massachusetts in 1784, a district was endowed with all the powers and exercised all the functions of a town, with the exception of having a representative in the General Court. On August 9, 1784, the first district meeting was held in the meeting house. Col. John Jones, Deacon Joseph Haven and Lieut.

Ebenezer Newell were elected selectmen; Col. John Jones, clerk; William Whiting, treasurer; Theodore Newell constable and tax collector. Dover remained attached to Dedham for representative purposes until 1789, when a new representative district was formed of Medfield and Dover. For forty-seven years after that date the voters of Dover went annually to Medfield to cast their ballots for a representative to the General Court.

On February 17, 1836, the selectmen of Dover—Walter Stowe, Lowell Perry and Timothy Allen—pursuant to instructions given them at a previous district meeting, presented a petition to the General Court asking to be incorporated as a town. The petition was granted on the 31st day of March following, and Dover, having passed through all the vicissitudes of precinct, parish and district, became a full-fledged town. The first town officers were: Selectmen, Walter Stowe, Lowell Perry and Hiram W. Jones; Clerk, Noah A. Fiske; Treasurer, George Chickering; Representative, Rev. Ralph Sanger. Noah A. Fiske was first elected clerk in 1825 and held the office for twenty-four years. George Chickering served continuously as treasurer from 1821 to 1842.

#### TOWN HALL

For many years the district and town meetings were held in the meeting house. When that structure was destroyed by fire on January 20, 1839, the town officials offered to assist in the building of a new one, with the understanding that the vestry might be used for town meetings. A meeting was held at the Centre school house on February 11, 1839, at which Daniel Mann, John Williams and Hiram W. Jones were appointed a committee on the part of the parish to superintend the erection of a new meeting house. The town appointed Walter Stowe, Lowell Perry, Joseph A. Smith, John Shumway and Jeremiah Marden a committee to coöperate with the parish committee, and the sum of three hundred dollars was appropriated as the town's share of the cost. This sum was used in the construction of the vestry, which was used for town purposes until 1880.

The ceiling of this vestry was only eight feet high and it was poorly lighted and ventilated. In 1859 a petition signed by Aaron Bacon and thirty-eight other taxpayers came before the town meeting asking that a new hall be erected, but it was not granted. Twenty years later (1879) the question again came before the town meeting, when the sum of three thousand dollars was appropriated for a new hall. Warren Sawin, Eben Higgins and William A. Howe were appointed a committee to procure plans. They reported in favor of a two-story building, a site was selected on the common facing Springdale Avenue, and the work was commenced. On July 16, 1879, just after the walls were up and the roof completed, a cyclone struck the unfinished building and "scattered it to the four winds." One of the workmen was killed and others were more or less seriously injured. A meeting was called to determine what should be done under the circumstances and the board of selectmen—John Humphrey, Asa Talbot and Barnabas Paine—were instructed to proceed with the erection of a new building and another appropriation was made. The loss caused by the storm amounted to \$1,926.85. The selectmen chose a new site and decided to build a one-story hall with basement, after plans made by Thomas W. Silloway of Boston. The new hall was dedicated on June 17, 1880, with appropriate ceremonies.

With the growth of the town and the establishment of a public library, the one-story structure was found to be inadequate, and in the spring of 1893 a committee, consisting of Eben Higgins, Barnabas Paine and Benjamin N. Sawin, was appointed to consider the improvement of the building. This committee reported in favor of raising the building and placing under it another story, eleven feet in height, which report was accepted and the work was completed in the fall of 1893, at a cost of \$3,594.28, giving Dover a town house ample for all needs. In addition to the assembly hall, the building contains a banquet hall, kitchen, toilet rooms, quarters for the town officers, and a fireproof vault for the preservation of the town records.

#### TOWN SEAL

On April 30, 1894, nearly one hundred years after the incorporation of the District of Dover, the town adopted a seal which is thus described by Henry E. Woods in heraldic language: "Upon a field showing on the dexter side a school house and brook, and on the sinister side a hill and Indians, an escutcheon bearing: azure on a mount vert a meeting house, without steeple, proper; crest, a plough and garb, crosswise, proper; motto 'Incorporated 1836,' surrounded by a circle inscribed in chief 'Town of Dover,' and in base 'Massachusetts,' divided on the dexter side by 'Parish 1748' and the sinister side by 'District 1784.'"

The meeting house is made the prominent figure upon the escutcheon to indicate the desire of the early inhabitants to have the privilege of worshipping among themselves; the school house on the left (representing the building erected in 1762) shows that education is the handmaiden of religion, and that it was so regarded by the Dover pioneers; the hill on the right represents Pegan Hill, only part of it being shown to indicate that it is not wholly within the limits of the town; and the principal industry of the people is indicated by the plough and sheaf of grain surmounting the shield.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in the town was established at Dover in February, 1838, with John Williams as postmaster. Prior to the establishment of this office the mail was brought from the office at Dedham by whoever might be passing between the two towns. At first there were but two mails during the week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In February, 1840, Rev. Ralph Sanger succeeded Mr. Williams as postmaster and held the office until January, 1860, when he resigned. During his administration daily mails were inaugurated.

Later in the year 1838 a second postoffice was established at Charles River Village and Josiah Newell was appointed postmaster. This office was established with the understanding that the mail should be delivered to it by interested persons without expense to the Government. When the railroad was completed the office was removed to the railway station. Upon the introduction of the free rural delivery system all the offices in the town were discontinued except the one at Dover, though the inhabitants still receive daily mail by carrier.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first record of any effort to organize a fire department, or to take steps for the means of extinguishing fires, was made in 1811, when some of the resi-

dents in the western part of the town presented a petition to the selectmen asking that the subject be taken into consideration. The board appointed Benjamin Guy, Jr., John Plimpton, Seth Mason, Noah Fiske, Jonathan Battle, Jr., Obed Hartshorn, Benjamin Guy, James Mann and Draper Smith a committee "to draft some plan of such an engine or machine to extinguish fires as will be suitable to the district, and to calculate the probable cost of the same."

The committee was unable to present any device that was acceptable to the people of the district, at a reasonable cost, and more than forty years elapsed before the question again came up before the authorities. In 1858 it was proposed in the town meeting that the selectmen be authorized "to provide a set of fire hooks, ladders, axes and carriage for the same," but again nothing was done. In 1896 a committee was appointed to purchase a wagon, ladders and chemical fire extinguishers, and an appropriation of \$500 was made for the purpose.

From this modest beginning has been developed the Dover Fire Department, which at the close of the year 1916 consisted of twenty men, equipped with two trucks, ladders, a number of fire extinguishers, etc. The appropriation for 1916 was \$1,600, which was expended under the supervision of a board of fire engineers composed of C. F. Lyman, V. A. Hovey and J. A. Knowles. The firemen receive pay only for the time they are actually on duty.

#### EARLY TAVERNS

During the old colonial days the tavern was an important institution and generally stood near the meeting house. As there were no newspapers, the gossip around the tavern fire was the principal channel through which news was disseminated. It is believed that the first tavern in Dover was kept by Ebenezer Newell, a cooper by trade, who came from Needham a few years before the middle of the Eighteenth Century and opened a house of entertainment near the center of the parish. In 1764 he was elected one of the selectmen of Dedham and served on the board for seven years. When the Town of Dedham decided in 1774 that no imported tea should be used by the inhabitants, he was one of the committee to see that the order was properly observed. At the time of the "Lexington Alarm" he was a lieutenant in Captain Guild's company and later served in the Continental army. He was succeeded as "mine host" of the tavern by Daniel Whiting.

John Reed kept a public house for a short time before the beginning of the Revolution, but the best known tavern in the history of Dover was the Williams Tavern, which was situated near the center of the district. It was kept by John Williams, who added a wing on the north side early in the Nineteenth Century, where many social gatherings were held. The "Sons of Liberty" held meetings in the great room, where weighty matters were discussed, while the genial boniface passed around New England rum to enliven the debate. The Boston & Woonsocket coaches stopped daily at this tavern, and many prominent men were at one time or another guests of "The Williams."

#### THE TOWN NAME

When the petition went to the General Court in January, 1782, the petitioners asked that the town might be named Derby. It is said that this choice was that

of Col. John Jones, chairman of the committee which presented the petition, and was selected in honor of Derby, England. In the bill incorporating the district the name was changed to Dover, after the old English town. "Either name would probably satisfy Colonel Jones' fondness for old English names." Before the District of Dover was erected, the territory was included in Springfield Parish, a name derived from the beautiful boiling springs which form the source of Trout Brook and the field in which they are located.

## SUNDRY INCIDENTS

Prior to 1730 the people of Dover buried their dead in the cemetery at Dedham. In February, 1730, a small tract of ground on the farm of Nathaniel Chickering was inclosed as a cemetery. In 1746 Mr. Chickering donated this ground to the precinct in the following document, to wit: "I give and bequeath to the West Precinct of the Town of Dedham the burying-ground as it lyeth now within fence, to be for the use of the said precinct for a burying place."

The first body to be buried here was that of John Battle, a grandson of Thomas Battle, whose death occurred on February 14, 1730. Additions were made to this cemetery in 1762, 1826, 1864 and 1891. The oldest gravestone is that over the grave of John Wight, who died on October 4, 1743, "in ye 12th year of his age."

The first preacher, after the parish was established in 1748, was Thomas Jones, who began his work on the first Sunday in December, 1749, and filled an engagement of thirteen weeks. The first meeting house was dedicated in December, 1754, though not completed at the time. It was finished in the spring of 1758.

In 1726 the Town of Dedham appropriated five pounds "to support a school in the westerly part of Dedham." This was the first appropriation from the mother town for educational purposes in Dover, though schools had been taught there prior to that date.

A law was passed by the General Court in 1760 that "any persons able of body who shall absent themselves from public worship of God on the Lord's Day shall pay a fine of ten shillings." Col. John Jones held a commission as justice under the king and the following is taken from his "Book of Minits":

"Dom. Rex vs Ephraim Bacon }  
 "Suffolk County } ss.

"Memo. That on ye 25th day of July, 1774, Ephraim Bacon of Dedham (Dover), yeoman in ten pounds, Oliver Kendrick of Dedham (Dover), yeoman in ten pounds, Recognized that ye said Ephraim should appear before ye Court of General Sessions of ye Peace to be held at Boston on ye 26th Inst at 10 A.M., to answer for his unlawfully absenting himself from Publick Worship of God on Lord's Days three months as Expressed in a bill of indictment filed in said Court.

"Suffolk ss., August 8, 1774. Ephraim Bacon in ye same sum and ye same surety recognized and held to answer at ye General Sessions of ye peace ye 1st Tuesday in October next."

The records do not show whether a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff or the defendant, but as the laws at that time were rigidly and impartially enforced, and Ephraim appears to have been somewhat habitual in his non-attendance at church, it is quite likely that he was made to pay his fine in accordance with the statute.

## DOVER IN 1917

In years gone by there was some manufacturing carried on in Dover, but the establishments have been discontinued or removed to localities where conditions were more favorable. The Dover of today is a typical New England agricultural community, some of the finest farms in Norfolk County being located in this town. Dover has Baptist, Unitarian and Congregational churches, a good public school system, a public library with over six thousand volumes, a historical society which occupies a building given by Benjamin N. Sawin and his wife and known as the "Sawin Memorial Building," well kept streets and highways, a public park, etc. The Boston & Woonsocket division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford passes through the central portion and affords transportation facilities. In 1910 the population was 798 and in 1915, according to the state census, it was 999, a gain of 201 in five years. In 1915 the property was valued for tax purposes at \$7,483,596.

Following is a list of the town officers as they were at the beginning of the year 1917: Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor and Board of Health, Charles S. Bean; James H. Chickering and Michael W. Comiskey; Clerk, John H. Faulk; Treasurer, Eben Higgins; Auditor, George Battelle; Assessors, Judson S. Battelle, Eben Higgins and John V. Schaffner; School Committee, Richard H. Bond, Dr. William T. Porter and Mrs. Agnes Y. Rogers; Highway Surveyor, James McGill.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE TOWN OF FOXBORO

FORM OF NAME—LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY—EARLY HISTORY—FIRST SETTLERS—INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN—FIRST TOWN MEETING—ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES—TYPICAL PIONEERS—TOWN HALL—MEMORIAL HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—TRANSPORTATION—FOXBORO IN 1917.

In the early records relating to this town the name is spelled "Foxborough," which is still used by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but the form adopted by the United States Government as the name of the postoffice, and in general use at the present day, is "Foxboro." The town is located in the southern part of Norfolk County and is bounded as follows: On the north by the Town of Walpole; northeast and east by Sharon; south by Bristol County; west and northwest by the towns of Plainville, Wrentham and Norfolk. The surface is rolling and there are several lakes or ponds in the town. The large pond called Neponset Reservoir, the source of one branch of the Neponset River, is situated in the northern part; Cocasset Pond is in the southwestern part and Miramichi (commonly called Shepard's) Pond is on the line between Foxboro and Plainville. Cocasset and Miramichi ponds are drained by Furnace Brook, which flows in a southerly direction into Bristol County. In the eastern part is Billings Brook, which also follows a southerly course and crosses the southern boundary line of the county a short distance south of East Foxboro.

#### EARLY HISTORY

A part of the present Town of Foxboro was included in Dedham when the latter town was incorporated in September, 1635, but the greater portion of it was embraced in the "New Grant" that was made to Dorchester in 1637. Wrentham was set off from Dedham in October, 1673, and included a small portion of what is now Foxboro. In December, 1715, the General Court erected "Dorchester South Precinct," which embraced the present towns of Canton, Sharon and Stoughton, and that part of the "New Grant" now within the Foxboro limits. Walpole was incorporated on December 10, 1724, and Stoughton on December 22, 1726. The latter included the greater part of Foxboro, all of Canton and Sharon, and a large portion of the original Town of Dedham. Sharon was cut off as the Town of Stoughtonham in June, 1765, and a small part of what is now Foxboro was included in the new town. Thirteen years later the Town of Foxboro was incorporated. John Shepard, a native of the town, was born on February 25, 1705, while the territory was a part of Dorchester, and lived to be over one hundred years of age. Through the various legislative changes

above mentioned, the story became current that he had been "a resident of three different counties and five different towns, yet lived in the same house all the time."

#### FIRST SETTLERS

About 1669 one William Hudson received a grant of five hundred acres of land (now in Foxboro) from the Dorchester authorities, and on October 21, 1676, conveyed the entire tract to Thomas Platts of Boston for two hundred and seventy-five pounds. In the deed the land was described as "situate, lying and being in the wilderness, between Dedham and Seaconet, commonly called or known by the name of 'Wading River Farm.'" Thomas Platts died in the summer of 1692 and the land passed to his son Thomas, who conveyed it to Jacob Shepard on July 11, 1704. So far as known this Jacob Shepard was the first white man to establish a home in what is now the Town of Foxboro. He was the father of John Shepard, above mentioned, who was probably the first white child born in the town.

Some years later the Morses and Boydens came from Medfield, the Capens from Dorchester, the Belchers from Sharon, and the Carpenters from Rehoboth. In 1713 the proprietors of the outlying lands in Dorchester were incorporated as "The Proprietors of the Undivided Lands," an organization which continued in existence for about sixty years, and through which the title to much of the land in Foxboro was obtained. The following list of residents on January 1, 1777, was prepared by Ebenezer Hill, at that time one of the selectmen of the Town of Stoughtonham (now Sharon): Zuriel Atherton, Samuel Balcom, John Basset, Eleazer Belcher, Beriah Billings, Ebenezer Billings, Elijah Billings, Jonathan Billings, Jonathan Billings, 2nd, Samuel Billings, William Billings, Josiah Blanchard, Samuel Bradshaw, Nehemiah Carpenter, Timothy Clapp, William Clapp, Nathan Clark, Nathaniel Clark, William Clark, Stephen Cobb, John Comey, William Comey, Jacob Cook, Zebulon Dean, Josiah Farrington, David Forrest, Ebenezer Hill, Spencer Hodges, Jacob Lenard, Lemuel Lyon, Elijah Morse, Ezra Morse, Levi Morse, Nat Morse, Elizabeth Payn (widow), Jacob Payn, John Payn, Joseph Payn, William Payn, William Payson, Ezekiel Pierce, Thomas Pogge, Jeremiah Rhodes, Joseph Rhodes, Joseph Rhodes, 2nd, John Richardson, Thomas Richardson, Josiah Robbins, Daniel Robeson, Seth Robeson, Ephraim Shepard, Israel Smith, John Smith, John Sumner, Joseph Tifney, David White, David Wilkeson, Job Willis, David Wood, Jethro Wood, Joseph Wood and William Wright.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN

The total population at the beginning of the year 1777, based upon Mr. Hill's list, was 106. Toward the close of that year a petition was circulated and signed by a majority of the legal voters and taxpayers, asking the General Court to establish a new town. The petition was granted and Foxboro was duly incorporated by the act of June 10, 1778, the title of which is as follows: "An Act for incorporating certain lands in the County of Suffolk, formerly belonging to the Town of Dorchester, but now to the towns of Wrentham, Walpole, Stoughton

and Stoughtonham, with the inhabitants living thereon into a town by the name of Foxborough."

On June 29, 1878, Hon. E. P. Carpenter, in an address at Foxboro, gave the following account of how the town obtained its name: "Charles James Fox, born 1749, son of Lord Holland, in Parliament before he was twenty years of age, was already an eminent man when, in 1774, he opposed the Boston Port Bill and defended the conduct of the colonies. He said in 1775 of Lord North, the prime minister of George III, 'The King of Prussia, nay, even Alexander the Great, never gained more in one campaign than Lord North has lost. He has lost a whole continent.' One of Fox's biographers says—'During the whole American war, Mr. Fox successively protested against every measure of hostility directed against the colonies.' Of him the Foxborough soldiers, who marched in quickstep at the 'Lexington Alarm,' and to Bunker Hill and Dorchester Heights, had heard, and, whatever the faults of that famous British statesman, no friend of American independence need blush to bear his name."

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

On June 29, 1778, the first town meeting was held and the following officers were elected: Josiah Pratt, John Everett, Benjamin Pettee, Daniel Robinson and Joseph Shepard, selectmen; Swift Payson, clerk; Nehemiah Carpenter, treasurer; John Comey, constable; Joseph Pratt, John Everett, Josiah Mann, John Shepard, Jr., and Nathaniel Clark, assessors; Benjamin Guild and Jacob Cook, tithingmen.

#### ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES

In the original act of incorporation it was provided that Eleazer Robbins, Daniel Morse, Elisha Morse, Mary Patten (widow), David Pratt, Mary Boyden (widow), Solomon Morse, Uriah Atherton, Samuel Morse, Josiah Hodges, Eliphallet Hodges, Josiah Blanchard, John Everett, Isaac Pratt, Joseph Pratt's heirs and Joseph Gilbert, "with their estates shall remain to the towns to which they now belong."

Some of those above named were inhabitants of Stoughton—a few living in that part afterward set off as Sharon—some lived in Walpole, and some in Wrentham. On March 12, 1793, the governor of Massachusetts approved an act of the Legislature, Section 1 of which provided that "Eleazer Robbins, Daniel Morse, Elisha Morse, Solomon Morse, Samuel Morse, Isaac Pratt, Ralph Thompson, widow Mary Patten, David Patten, Caleb Atherton, Eli Atherton, Abijah Pratt and Seth Boyden be, and they are hereby, set off from the Town of Stoughton and annexed to the Town of Foxborough, with their families and estates," etc.

Section 2 of the same act reads: "And be it further enacted that Shadrack Winslow and David Wilbore, with their families and estates; also Levi Pratt, Jesse Pratt, Benoni Pratt, Alexander Doby and the heirs of Jonathan Wilbore, now lying within the bounds of Sharon and Stoughton, be, and hereby are, set off from said towns and annexed to the Town of Foxborough."

Section 3 describes the line between Foxboro and Sharon, but this line was

again altered by the act of January 30, 1833, and was located as it is at present by the act of February 28, 1850. In March, 1834, part of Foxboro was annexed to Walpole. The line between Stoughton and Foxboro was adjusted by the act of March 12, 1793.

#### TYPICAL PIONEERS

Seth Boyden, whose name appears among those annexed to Foxboro by the act of 1793, settled in Stoughton about 1738. Twelve years later he was collector for the second ministerial precinct in Stoughton, as shown by an old rate book still preserved by his descendants. The precinct included the present towns of Stoughton and Sharon and a large part of Foxboro. His descendants also have (or had only a few years since) "The Records of the Proprietors of a lot of land, being ye forty-fifth lot in ye Twenty-five Divisions of land (so called) lying and being in ye Township of Dorchester, and now in ye Township of Stoughton, in ye County of Suffolk, and is held in common by ye said Proprietors—Begun the tenth day of April, 1739, Seth Boyden, Proprietors' Clerk."

The lot of land to which this record refers was partly in what is now the Town of Sharon and partly in Foxboro. It contained a bed of iron ore which was worked for several years. In the warrant issued by Jonathan Ware, March 4, 1738, for a town meeting in Wrentham, the sixth article was "To determine in what manner ye Iron oar and stream in s<sup>d</sup> land shall be disposed of." At the meeting it was voted "That the iron oar now or hereafter found shall be reserved to ye proprietors according to their interest, each of whom may between the last Tuesday in August and October dige oar annually and at noe other time of the year." The stream is now known as Furnace Brook and was reserved likewise to the proprietors "to build a mill or dam on provided they do not raise such a head of water as to float ye adjacent lands or meadows at any other time of the year than between ye first day of October and ye 20th day of Aprile annually."

Lot No. 45 contained 437 acres, of which Seth Boyden received about 270 acres. According to his account, in the old record referred to, he received as his share of ore seventy-five tons between the years 1740 and 1755. Mr. Boyden held several offices before the incorporation of Foxboro.

John Everett was one of the first settlers in the town and was a blacksmith by trade. He was one of the first board of selectmen and one of the first assessors. In 1779 he was elected a representative to the General Court and the same year was chosen a delegate to the constitutional convention which framed the first organic law of Massachusetts.

Swift Payson, the first town clerk, was a son of Rev. Phillips Payson, at one time pastor of the church at Walpole. In his address at Foxboro's centennial in June, 1878, Mr. Carpenter told this story of Swift Payson: "He was a humorous, whimsical, but kindly character. Passionately fond of music, his first accumulations as a boy were devoted to the purchase of a violin. Horrified at the sound of the instrument, accidentally heard after a long concealment, his father cried: 'Where did you get that fiddle?' 'I bought it, sir,' was the apparently innocent reply. 'Then sell it at the first opportunity; let me never hear it again.' Shortly after the Ministerial Association met with Mr. Payson, to whom,

sitting in his parlor, demurely entered the lad with his violin. 'Gentlemen, would either of you like a first-rate fiddle? My father says I may sell it, and I thought it only right to give you the first chance.' It is to be hoped that the boy's wit saved his fiddle. It may have done good service in Foxborough, for tradition says our people, in the midst of hardship and privation, were yet gay and pleasure-loving and 'often danced on sanded floors to the scraping of the catgut.'"

Aaron Everett was a carpenter; Joseph Everett a tanner and glove-maker; Joseph Comey was the village shoemaker; Eleazer Belcher, who lived near the northeast corner of the town, made potash and kept a small stock of goods, and Amos Boyden was a surveyor, who in 1779 was directed "to take and award all ye highways or roads in your swardren; also all ye other roads belonging to ye Town of Foxborough in that part late belonged to Stoughton."

The first house built at Foxboro Centre was the building long known as the "Old Carpenter House." It was built in 1749-50 by Nehemiah Carpenter, who came from Rehoboth, Bristol County, and stood on a way leading off from South Street and not far from the town house. Some years after it was built it was used as a tavern. It was torn down in 1880.

#### TOWN HALL

The early town meetings were held in a meeting house that was erected about 1763, fifteen years before the town was incorporated. In 1821 Rev. Thomas Williams, being about to leave the parish, offered the society five hundred dollars (the amount of his original settlement) if it would apply the money toward building a new meeting house. The offer was accepted and the work of tearing down the old church was commenced forthwith, without consulting the selectmen. On December 22, 1821, the selectmen issued a warrant for a town meeting, "to assemble at their meeting house on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1822, to see if the town will repair their meeting house, or do anything relative to the premises."

Before the time for the meeting arrived the meeting house had entirely disappeared, and the records of that meeting begin with the statement: "Pursuant to the foregoing warrant the town assembled on the spot where the meeting house stood. Voted, to direct their treasurer not to prosecute any person or persons on account of the parish taking down their meeting house."

From that time until November 14, 1836, town meetings were held in the Union Hall, over the school house, which had been built in 1793. It stood near the present Baptist Church. During the next eleven years the town meetings were held in Sumner's Hall, where the Union Building was afterward erected, then in Cocasset Hall until the spring of 1856, and from then until the completion of the town hall in the American Hall. The town hall was built in 1857, by a committee consisting of E. P. Carpenter, Otis Cary, Henry Hobart, F. D. Williams and Oliver Carpenter. A town meeting on March 14, 1857, voted to build the hall and the first meeting was held in it on March 29, 1858. The cost of the building and the ground on which it stands was \$15,496.79. In 1874 an addition was built for school purposes at a cost of \$26,244.31. Upon the completion of the new Savings Bank Building in the spring of 1915, the town offices were moved to the second floor of the Bank Building.

## MEMORIAL HALL

In the warrant for a town meeting to be held on March 10, 1866, was an article in reference to a monument to Foxboro's soldiers who fell in the service of their country. At the meeting it was voted to refer the subject to a committee, consisting of E. P. Carpenter, William H. Thomas, Otis Cary, George T. Ryder and William Carpenter. This committee made an extended report on March 6, 1867, recommending the erection of a memorial hall, and ten days later the same committee was instructed to procure plans and estimates in accordance with the report. The hall was erected in 1868 at a cost of about thirteen thousand dollars, made up of town appropriations, subscriptions and donations. It stands near the center of the old cemetery, and was dedicated on June 17, 1868, the principal address being delivered by Hon. George B. Loring. At the right of the entrance is a marble tablet, with a medallion of flint-lock musket, powder-horn and cartridge-box in relief, and the names of those who served in the Revolution and the War of 1812. Upon the opposite side of the doorway is the "Roll of Honor," giving the names of those who served in the War of the Rebellion—1861-65—and on a separate tablet, facing the entrance, are the names of "Our Honored Dead," who lost their lives in that great conflict.

## WATERWORKS

At a town meeting held on March 23, 1878, E. P. Carpenter, Virgil S. Pond, N. F. Howard, William T. Cook and Charles F. Howard were appointed a committee to consider the question of establishing a system of water supply for the town. This committee made a unanimous report at a subsequent meeting in favor of some system of waterworks, and suggested a plan by which the town could be supplied with water. The matter was then taken to the Legislature, and on April 4, 1879, an act was approved, Section 1 of which was as follows:

"The inhabitants of the Village of Foxborough in the County of Norfolk, liable to taxation in the Town of Foxborough, and residing within a radius of half a mile from the center of the public common in said village, shall constitute a water district and are made a body corporate by the name of The Foxborough Water Supply District, for the purpose of supplying themselves with pure water," etc.

Section 2 authorized the people of the district to use the waters of Governor's Brook, or any springs, natural ponds, brooks or other water sources; Section 3 made the district liable for damages to property by the construction of dams, reservoirs, etc., and Section 4 authorized a loan not exceeding fifty thousand dollars.

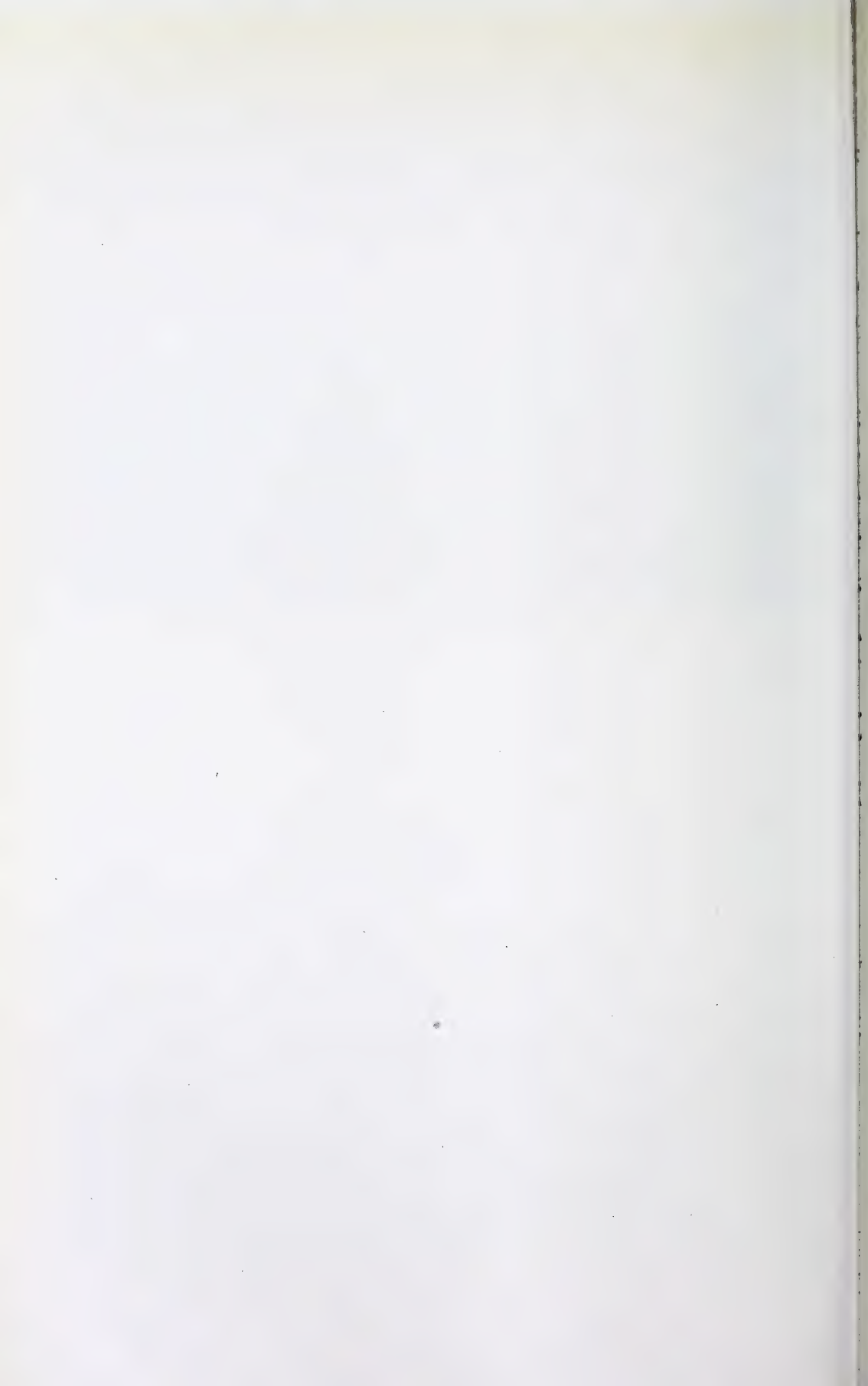
Nothing further was done for about seven years. In the spring of 1886 the "Mansfield and Foxborough Water Company" was formed by F. D. Williams, Virgil S. Pond, William B. Crocker, John Q. Lynch, C. W. Hodges and George F. Williams of Foxboro, and a like number of Mansfield men. The company asked the Legislature to grant it a charter of incorporation, which was refused on account of the previous incorporation of the Foxborough Water District. The Mansfield Water District was then incorporated on June 28, 1886, with power to borrow \$75,000, and the Foxboro people were left just where they were at the start.



STATE HOSPITAL, FOXBORO



HIGH SCHOOL, FOXBORO



On May 28, 1889, a meeting was held to take action on the question of increasing the loan \$75,000, and a request to that effect was presented to the next session of the Legislature. By the act of April 2, 1890, the increased loan was authorized, provided it was approved by a two-thirds vote of the people living within the limits of the district. An election was held on May 14, 1890, at which the proposition failed to receive the support of the required two-thirds. On June 11, 1891, another act was passed by the Legislature relating to this subject. It repealed the feature of the act of the preceding year requiring a two-thirds vote, and substituted therefor a "majority vote." Under this act the people authorized the construction of the waterworks, which were completed about three years later. The town is now divided into two water districts—Foxboro and East Foxboro.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

No one seems to know just when the first volunteer fire company was organized in Foxboro, but it was many years ago. On June 29, 1878, the town celebrated its centennial and the following issue of the Foxboro Times, in giving an account of the ceremonies, said: "At the present time we have a population of nearly thirty-two hundred souls; a town house that cost nearly twenty-five thousand dollars, with a school house addition worth as much more; six other school houses, valued at from six hundred to two thousand dollars each; a thirteen thousand dollar memorial hall, with an excellent public library of nearly three thousand volumes therein; two commodious engine houses; fire apparatus (with an able department to use it), which cost not less than ten thousand dollars, and which is worth, when it is considered the amount of property it has saved to our citizens, a much larger sum."

That was written nearly forty years ago and in that period the efficiency of the department has been increased to keep pace with the growth of the town. The cost of maintenance for the year 1916 was \$1,718.68, and during the year thirty-two calls were answered. In the warrant for the town meeting to be held March 6, 1916, Article 8 was "To authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the selectmen, to borrow money in anticipation of the revenue of the current financial year." The minutes of the meeting, relating to this article, show that it was "Voted, that the treasurer, with the approval of the selectmen, be and hereby is authorized to borrow the sum of four thousand dollars for the purpose of purchasing a combination auto truck for the use of the Fire Department, and to issue two notes of two thousand each, of the town therefor, payable one November 1, 1917, from the tax levy of that year, and one November 1, 1918, from the tax levy of that year, at a rate of interest not exceeding five per cent per annum."

At the same meeting Article 14 was passed by a vote of fifty-four to twenty-five, "To sell the chemical fire engine and purchase a combination auto truck, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 therefor, as recommended by the board of fire engineers."

With the purchase of the equipment ordered by these votes, Foxboro has a fire department able to cope with any fire that is likely to occur. An appropriation of \$100 was made by the annual meeting in 1916 for a fire lookout on Moose

Hill, and during the year \$300 were expended in extending and improving the fire alarm system.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Not many towns of its class are better provided with transportation facilities than Foxboro. Two lines of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad system pass through the town and on these lines there are four stations. East Foxboro is on the main line from Boston to Providence, and Foxboro, North Foxboro and Foxvale are on the line running from Taunton to Marlboro and Fitchburg. In addition to these roads there is a division of the Norfolk & Bristol electric line, with a branch from Foxboro to Wrentham.

#### FOXBORO IN 1917

According to the United States census, the population of Foxboro in 1910 was 3,863. The state census of 1915 reported a population of 3,755. This shows a decrease of 108 during the five years. There has also been a slight decrease in the assessed valuation of the property, that for 1915 being \$3,041,740, and the assessment for 1916 was \$2,825,210. The town has two banks, a weekly newspaper (the Reporter), nine public school buildings, in which twenty-four teachers were employed during the school year of 1915-16, a number of manufacturing establishments, churches of different denominations, hotels and mercantile houses, one of the prettiest commons in the county, and a large number of comfortable homes. It is one of the few towns of the state that have no bonded indebtedness.

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town officers were as follows: Orlando McKenzie, Jarvis Williams and Louis W. Hodges, selectmen and overseers of the poor; George R. Ellis, clerk and treasurer; Percy B. Richmond, John B. Hodges and Lewis Belcher, assessors; Benjamin F. Gifford, surveyor of highways; Franklin A. Pettee, tax collector; Fred H. Richards, accountant; William S. Kimball, Jarvis Williams and Fred N. Griffiths, board of health; Ernest A. White, Walter S. Keith and Richard W. Barton, engineers of the fire department and forest fire wardens; Lucius A. Cady and Ernest A. White, constables; John E. Warren, Miss Frances A. White and William R. Lewis, school committee.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION—THE PRECINCT—SOME POINTED INSTRUCTIONS—THE TOWN INCORPORATED—NAMING THE TOWN—FIRST TOWN MEETING—FRANKLIN'S PATRIOTISM—FIRST MILLS—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—POSTOFFICE—ALMSHOUSE—FINANCIAL—THE FRANKLIN OF THE PRESENT.

Franklin is situated in the southwestern part of the county. It is bounded on the north by the Charles River, which separates it from the Town of Medway; on the east by the towns of Norfolk and Wrentham; on the south by Wrentham, and on the west by Bellingham. The surface is an elevated plain, diversified by green meadows, sunny hills and shady valleys. From some of the highest points the Blue Hills of Milton, nearly twenty miles distant, can be seen, and on clear days the top of Mount Wachusett, in Worcester County, is clearly visible. Among the hills are a number of small lakes or ponds. The largest of these is Popolatic Pond in the northeastern part, on the line dividing Franklin from Norfolk, the waters of which find their way to the Charles River through Mill (or Stop) River. Beaver Pond and two smaller ones lie near the center of the town and are drained by the Mine Brook, a tributary of the Charles River. In the southeastern part is Uncas Pond, which derives its name from a tradition that the Mohegan sachem Uncas, in some of his hunting excursions or warlike expeditions against the Pequot Indians, was wont to encamp upon its shores.

#### THE PRECINCT

The territory now comprising the Town of Franklin was originally a part of Dedham. It was included in Wrentham when that town was incorporated on October 15, 1673, and remained a part of Wrentham for more than a century. In June, 1736, a petition was presented to the General Court asking for the establishment of a precinct in the western part of Wrentham. That petition was signed by forty-eight resident freeholders, viz.: John Adams, Robert Blake, Ebenezer Clark, David Darling, John Failes, Nathaniel Fairbanks, Eleazer Fisher, John Fisher, Lineard (Leonard) Fisher, Nathaniel Fisher, Edward Gay, Edward Hall, Daniel Hawes, Josiah Hawes, Nathaniel Hawes, Ebenezer Hunting, David Jones, David Lawrence, David Lawrence, Jr., Ebenezer Lawrence, Daniel Maccane, Thomas Mann, Sr., Eleazer Metcalf, Eleazer Metcalf, Jr., Michael Metcalf, Samuel Metcalf, Samuel Morse, James New, Ebenezer Partridge, Job Partridge, Samuel Partridge, Baruch Pond, David Pond, Ezra Pond, Ichabod Pond, Robert Pond, John Richardson, Benjamin Rockwood, Thomas Rockwood, Ebenezer

Sheckelworth, Simon Slocum, John Smith, Daniel Thurston, Eleazer Ware, Joseph Whiting, Michael Wilson, Uriah Wilson and Jonathan Wright.

Owing to objections on the part of Wrentham, a delay of more than a year was experienced, but on December 23, 1737, Governor Belcher affixed his signature to the bill erecting the "Second Precinct of Wrentham." A few days later a warrant was issued to Robert Pond, John Adams, Daniel Hawes, David Jones and Daniel Thurston authorizing them to call a meeting for the election of officers and the organization of the precinct, "in the house the inhabitants usually meet in for public worship." The meeting assembled at noon on January 16, 1738, and after electing officers adjourned to the 20th. At the adjourned meeting the sum of eighty pounds was voted for preaching and a committee appointed to secure a preacher. Another committee was appointed to provide materials for a meeting house "forty feet long, thirty-one feet wide, with twenty feet posts, toward which each may contribute his proportion." The meeting also voted to send a request to Wrentham "for the fulfillment of a promise made them ten years before, that money paid by them, amounting to one hundred and thirty pounds eleven shillings, towards its meeting house should be repaid to them." Wrentham at first refused to grant this request, but in May reconsidered the matter and the money was refunded.

The church was regularly organized on February 16, 1738, Rev. Joseph Baxter of Medfield acting as moderator. In November following Rev. Elias Haven was installed as the first pastor, but the meeting house was not completed until the spring of 1740. (See Church History.)

#### SOME POINTED INSTRUCTIONS

Franklin continued as the Second Precinct of Wrentham for forty-one years. From 1740 to 1742 the subject of applying to Wrentham for permission to become a town was discussed, but no definite action was taken. On March 4, 1754, the people of the precinct presented a petition to that effect to the Wrentham town meeting, where it was voted down. Then came the dissensions with England that culminated in the Revolution and the question was dropped for nearly a quarter of a century, the inhabitants going to Wrentham to participate in the numerous meetings called from time to time to consider the condition of the colonies. At one of these meetings, held on June 5, 1776, the following instructions were issued to Benjamin Guild, Joseph Hawes and Dr. Ebenezer, representatives to the General Court:

"Gentlemen—We, your constituents in full town meeting assembled, June 5, 1776, give you the following instructions:

"Whereas, Tyranny and Oppression, a little more than one century and a half ago, obliged our forefathers to quit their peaceful habitations and seek an asylum in this distant land, amid an howling wilderness surrounded with savage enemies, destitute of almost every convenience of life was their unhappy situation, but such was their zeal for the common rights of mankind that they (under the smile of Divine Providence) surmounted every difficulty, and in a little time were in the exercise of civil government under a Charter of the Crown of Great Britain. But after some years had passed, and the Colonies had become of some importance, new troubles began to arise. The same spirit which caused



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF FRANKLIN



them to leave their native land still pursued them, joined by designing men among themselves. Letters began to be wrote against the Government and the first Charter soon afterward destroyed.

"In this situation some years passed before another charter could be obtained, and, although many of the gifts and privileges of the first charter were abridged by the last, yet in that situation the Government has been tolerably quiet until about the year 1763, since which time the same spirit of oppression has risen up. Letters by divers ill-minded persons have been wrote against the government (in consequence of which divers acts of the British Parliament made, mutilating and destroying the Charter, and wholly subversive of the Constitution). Fleets and armies have been sent to enforce them, and at length a civil war has commenced, and the sword is drawn in our land, and the whole United Colonies involved in a common cause; the repeated and humble petitions of the good people of these Colonies have been wantonly rejected with disdain; the Prince we once adored has now commissioned the instruments of his hostile oppression to lay waste our dwellings with fire and sword, to rob us of our property, and wantonly to stain the land with the blood of its innocent inhabitants; he has entered into treaties with the most cruel nations to hire an army of foreign mercenaries to subjugate the Colonies to his cruel and arbitrary purposes. In short, all hope of an accommodation is entirely at an end; a reconciliation as dangerous as it is absurd; a recollection of past injuries will naturally keep alive and kindle the flames of jealousy.

"We, your constituents, therefore think that to be subject to or dependent on the Crown of Great Britain would not only be impracticable, but unsafe to the State. The inhabitants of this town therefore, in full town meeting, unanimously instruct and direct you (i. e. the representatives) to give your vote that, if the Honorable American Congress (in whom we place the highest confidence under God) should think it necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them independent of Great Britain, that we, your constituents, with our lives and fortunes will most cheerfully support them in the measure."

These instructions have been reproduced in full as showing the trend of public sentiment in "the days that tried men's souls." It is interesting to compare the language used by this little backwoods settlement in Massachusetts with that of the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia a month later. And the sons of Franklin backed up their declarations with their deeds. Upon the first alarm from Lexington and Concord her Minute-Men were prompt to respond, and from that time until the British General Cornwallis handed his sword to General Lincoln on the field at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, they were upon the firing line in numerous engagements.

#### THE TOWN INCORPORATED

During the Revolutionary war the demand for town meetings became more urgent and the business to be transacted more important. Between January, 1773, and February, 1778, no fewer than thirty-one meetings were held in Wrentham. To attend these meetings, the people of Franklin had to travel from five to ten miles over bad roads in all kinds of weather, but their loyalty and sense of duty impelled them to make the frequent tiresome journeys. On

December 29, 1777, another petition was brought before the town meeting asking "for liberty to be set off into a distinct township, according to grant of Court that they were first incorporated into a precinct," etc. Deacon Jabez Fisher, Jonathan Metcalf, Asa Whiting, Dr. John Metcalf, Capt. John Boyd, Joseph Hawes and Samuel Lethbridge, "chief men of the precinct are put in charge of the matter."

Wrentham appointed a committee of nine to confer with the "chief men" above mentioned, and on February 21, 1778, reported in favor of the petition. Then followed the work of dividing the town property, etc. The quota of soldiers recruited for service in the Continental army were proportionately accredited to each section; firearms, military stores, the supply of salt allowed by the General Court were satisfactorily adjusted; the five paupers were also assigned—three to Wrentham and two to the new town—and the public revenues were duly adjusted. All this having been attended to, a petition was presented to the General Court, which resulted in the enactment of the following bill:

"STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

"In the Year of our Lord, 1778.

"An Act incorporating the Westerly Part of the Town of Wrentham, in the County of Suffolk, into a Town by the name of Franklin.

"Whereas, the Inhabitants of the Westerly part of the Town of Wrentham in the County of Suffolk have Represented to this Court the Difficulties they Labor under in their present situation, and apprehending themselves of sufficient Numbers & Ability, request that they may be Incorporated into a separate Town.

"Be it Therefore Enacted by the Council & House of Representatives in General Court Assembled, & by the Authority of the same, That the Westerly part of said Town of Wrentham separated by a line, as follows, viz: Beginning at Charles River, where Medfield line comes to said river; thence running south seventeen degrees and a half West until it comes to one rod east of ye Dwelling House of William Man; thence a strait line to the eastwardly corner of Asa Whiting's barn; thence a strait line to sixty rods due south of the old cellar where the Dwelling House of Ebenezer Healy formerly stood; thence a Due West cource by the Needle to Bellingham line, said Bellingham line to be the West Bounds and Charles River the Northerly Bounds, be and hereby is incorporated into a Distinct and Separate Toen by the name of FRANKLIN, and invested with all the powers, Privileges and Immunities that Towns in this State do or may enjoy.

"And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the inhabitants of the Town of Franklin shall pay their proportion of all State, County and Town charges already granted to be raised in the Town of Wrentham and also their proportion of the pay of the Representatives for the present year. And the said Town of Wrentham and Town of Franklin shall be severally held punctually to stand by & perform to each other the Terms & Proposals Contained and Expressed in a vote of the Town of Wrentham passed at a Publick Town Meeting the sixteenth day of February, 1778, according to ye plain and obvious meaning thereof.

"And Be it also Enacted by ye Authority aforesaid, That Jabez Fisher, Esq., Be & he hereby is Authorized & Required to issue his warrant to one of



RESIDENCE OF H. T. HAYWARD, FRANKLIN



RESIDENCE OF A. W. PIERCE, FRANKLIN



the Principal Inhabitants of said Town of Franklin, authorizing & requiring him to Notifie & warn the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of said Town to meet together at such time and place as shall be Expressed in said warrant, To choose such officers as Towns are authorized by Law to Choose, and Transact other such Lawfull matters as shall be expressed in said Warrant.

"And be it further Enacted, That the Inhabitants living within ye Bounds aforesaid who on the Late Tax in the Town of Wrentham were rated one-half part so much for their Estates and Faculties as for one single Poll shall be taken & Holden to be Qualified and be allowed to Vote in their first Meeting for the Choice of officers & such other meetings as may be Called in said Town of Franklin until a Valuation of Estates shall be made by Assessors there.

"IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"February 27, 1778.

"This Bill having been read three several times, passed to be engrossed. Sent up for Concurrence.

"J. WARREN SYKE.

"IN COUNCIL.

"March 2, 1778.

"This bill, having had two several readings, passed a Concurrence, to be engrossed.

"JOHN AVERY, Dpy. Secy."

#### NAMING THE TOWN

Mortimer Blake gives the following account of the manner in which the name of Franklin was selected for the town: "In the original draft of the charter, as preserved in the State Archives, the name of the new town is written as 'Exeter.' Why its name was first written Exeter is a conundrum, whose answer is inaudible among the echoes of the past. Why it was changed to Franklin is apparent. After the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Benjamin Franklin with two others was sent forthwith to France to arrange for a treaty of alliance with Louis XVI. The king dallied with the ambassadors until the close of 1777, when the capture of Burgoyne settled his doubts, and a treaty of amity and commerce was formed with them in January, 1778. News of their success reached this country while the petition of the new town was waiting decision. The charter was doubtless amended in honor of that event and 'Exeter' was changed for the honored name of 'Franklin,' the first of twenty-nine towns in our states who have since followed her example in calling themselves by the same name."

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

Shortly after the act of incorporation was passed by the General Court, Jabez Fisher, a justice of the peace, issued his warrant for a town meeting to be held in the new town on Monday, March 23, 1778. At that meeting the only business transacted was the election of town officers and the choice of a "Committee of Correspondence," to look after military matters. Jonathan Metcalf, Samuel Lethbridge, Joseph Hawes, Asa Whiting and Hezekiah Fisher were elected as the

first board of selectmen; Asa Pond, town clerk; Asa Whiting, treasurer; and Joseph Hawes, representative to the General Court. The "Committee of Correspondence" was composed of Capt. John Boyd, Lieut. Ebenezer Dean, Capt. Thomas Bacon and Daniel Thurston.

#### FRANKLIN'S PATRIOTISM

It must be remembered that Franklin was born in the midst of the Revolutionary war, when every man was expected to be for or against the cause of the American colonies. There were no neutrals. The committee on correspondence looked sharply after the enemies in their midst and a town meeting voted that all tories should be reported to the proper court. Every demand for men or money on the Town of Franklin was promptly met. A town meeting directed that "soldiers' families shall be supplied with the necessaries of life at a stipulated price at the town's expense," and voted not to deal with any persons whose scale of prices did not conform to that recommended by the Concord convention of 1779. Within eighteen months the town furnished its proportion of beef to the Continental army—33,908 pounds—almost robbing the town of its cattle. When the credit of the new Government of the United States hung in the balance, Franklin recommended all who had money to lend "to avoid lending it to monopolizers, jobbers, harpies, forestallers and tories, with as much caution as they would avoid a pestilence, and lend it to the Continental and State treasuries." It was patriotism of this type that made the American Republic possible and placed it upon a sound financial basis.

#### FIRST MILL

The first mill for grinding corn for the early settlers was built near the foot of Eagle Hill by John Whiting in 1685, nearly one hundred years before the Town of Franklin was incorporated. That mill was owned by members of the Whiting family for over a century. The first boards used in the construction of dwellings were split in the form of "puncheons" or sawed with a whip-saw. In 1713 the settlers in the North Precinct of Wrentham, anxious for a mill nearer to them, induced Daniel Hawes, Eleazer Metcalf, Robert Pond, John Maccane and Samuel Metcalf to build a saw-mill at the falls of Mine Brook. The contract, or articles of association, signed by these men is here reproduced as a literary curiosity: "Wrentham, Feb. the 7, 1713.

"We hose names are hereunto subscrib<sup>d</sup> doe agree to build a Saw Mill at the place called the Minebrook: Daniel Hawes wone quarter John Maccane wone quarter Eleazar Metcalf and Samuel Metcalf wone quarter & Robert Pond Sen wone quarter. We doe covenant & agree as follows:

"1 We doe promis that we wil each of us carry on & doe our equal porporchon Throught in procureing of irones & Hueing framing of a dam & mill & all other labour throught so faire as the major part shall see meat to doe then to com to a reckoning:

"2 We doe agre that all of us shall hav liberty for to work out his proportion of work & in case aney wone of us neglect to carry on sayd Work till it be done & fit to saw & he that neglects to carry on his part of sayd mill shall pay half a crown a day to the rest of ye owners that did says Work:

"3 We doe allsoe agre that sayd Land shall bee for a mill pond soe long as the major part shall se fit. We doe Allsoe agre that no wone shall sell his part of sayd mill till he has first made a Tender to ye rest of ye Owners We doe allsoe agre that no wone shall sell his part in ye land till he has tenderd it to the rest of ye Owners.

"ELEASAR METCALF

"ROBART POND

"JOHN MACCANE

"DANIEL HAWS

"SAMUEL METCALF."

The contract was "signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Ezra Pond, Robert Pond, Jr., and Jonathan Wright," and notwithstanding its peculiar phraseology and great number of misspelled words, it seems to have answered the purpose just as well as a more elaborate document, drawn up and attested by a notary, would have done. On March 7, 1717, the following supplementary agreement was indorsed on the back of the original:

"We doe agree to lay out each man's loot as they are drawn the first loot is to be gin four foot from the upper sil of the streak sil & soe up unto the ind of the sleapers & to devide it equal into four loots & from the sleapers towards the road so as not to interrupt the road."

This was signed by the five original projectors of the mill and Daniel Thurston, who it appears had in the meantime been taken into partnership. Subsequently the mill and all its appurtenances passed into the hands of the Whitings, who continued to operate it for many years. Many of the early buildings in Franklin were constructed of lumber sawed at the Mine Brook Mill.

#### WATERWORKS

In 1876 the town employed Percy M. Blake to make a survey with a view of establishing a system of waterworks to supply the inhabitants with water for domestic purposes and as a protection against loss by fire. Mr. Blake made his report, but no action was taken until the town meeting in March, 1883. Then Joseph G. Ray, Asa A. Fletcher and William E. Nason were appointed a committee "to ascertain the cost and all other necessary information relative to the introduction of a water supply." While this committee was making its investigations, the Legislature on May 16, 1883, passed an act incorporating the Franklin Water Company and authorizing it "to issue bonds to the amount of \$75,000, payable in thirty years, and to take water from Beaver Pond." Among the incorporators of the company were James P. Ray, George W. Wiggin, Rev. William M. Thayer, James M. Freeman, Homer V. Snow and Henry R. Jenks.

In 1906 the works constructed by this company were taken over by the town and bonds issued to pay for the plant. At the close of the year 1916 the amount of these water bonds outstanding was \$218,000. The water commissioners, in their report for 1916, give the number of gallons pumped during the year as 120,384,469. The supply is taken from both open and driven wells. There are 145 public and 24 private hydrants and about eleven hundred customers.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Previous to the establishment of the waterworks, the Franklin Fire Department consisted of only two hand engines of rather antiquated pattern with the completion of the waterworks and the purchase of a supply of hose, the department was greatly improved. In their last annual report the water commissioners said: "The town now has about as good a Fire Department as it is possible to get from call firemen, yet in order to make it more efficient hydrants should be established in several places where property is not well protected. Under the policy your commissioners adopted several years ago, to ask no appropriation from the town, except hydrant rentals, same as were paid to the Franklin Water Company, we have had no funds to extend the mains in all the streets where it might be useful for fire protection, but will extend and improve the system as our funds allow."

At the close of the year 1916 the equipment of the department consisted of one steam fire engine, two motor combination trucks, one hook and ladder company, and three hose companies. During that year the department answered fifty-two calls, in which the value of property involved was \$149,500 and the loss was \$17,040. Ernest L. Metcalf was then chief of the department. The engine company, known as "Ray Engine No. 3," received a gift of a high-powered searchlight, which was presented by Charles N. Barnard.

## POSTOFFICE

In the early years of the Nineteenth Century mail for the inhabitants of Franklin was left at the Wrentham office by the carriers on the mail route between Providence and Boston, who made their trips three times a week. About 1812 some of the people of Franklin made up a fund and hired Herman C. Fisher, then a boy of fifteen, to go to the Wrentham office every Saturday and bring the mail. This arrangement continued until 1819, when Eli Richardson built the stone store at City Mills (now in the Town of Norfolk) and succeeded in having a postoffice established there. This brought mail facilities a little nearer to Franklin, where Mr. Richardson attended church, and every Sunday morning he would take the Franklin mail, which was left at the store of Davis Thayer, to be distributed Monday.

Such a system was not satisfactory, and in 1821 a movement was started to secure a postoffice at "Franklin Centre." It was successful and the office was established in 1822, with Maj. Davis Thayer as postmaster. The postmasters since that time have been as follows: Spencer Pratt, Theron C. Hills, David P. Baker, Cyrus B. Snow, Charles W. Stewart, David P. Baker, Smith Fisher, J. A. Woodward, Oliver H. Ingalls, James M. Freeman, Henry A. Talbot, Matthew F. Conroy, Henry A. Talbot. Mr. Talbot died on January 1, 1903, and Miss Catherine L. Healy, the present assistant postmaster, served as acting postmaster until the appointment of E. B. Sherman, who was succeeded soon after President Wilson's inauguration by B. F. Callahan.

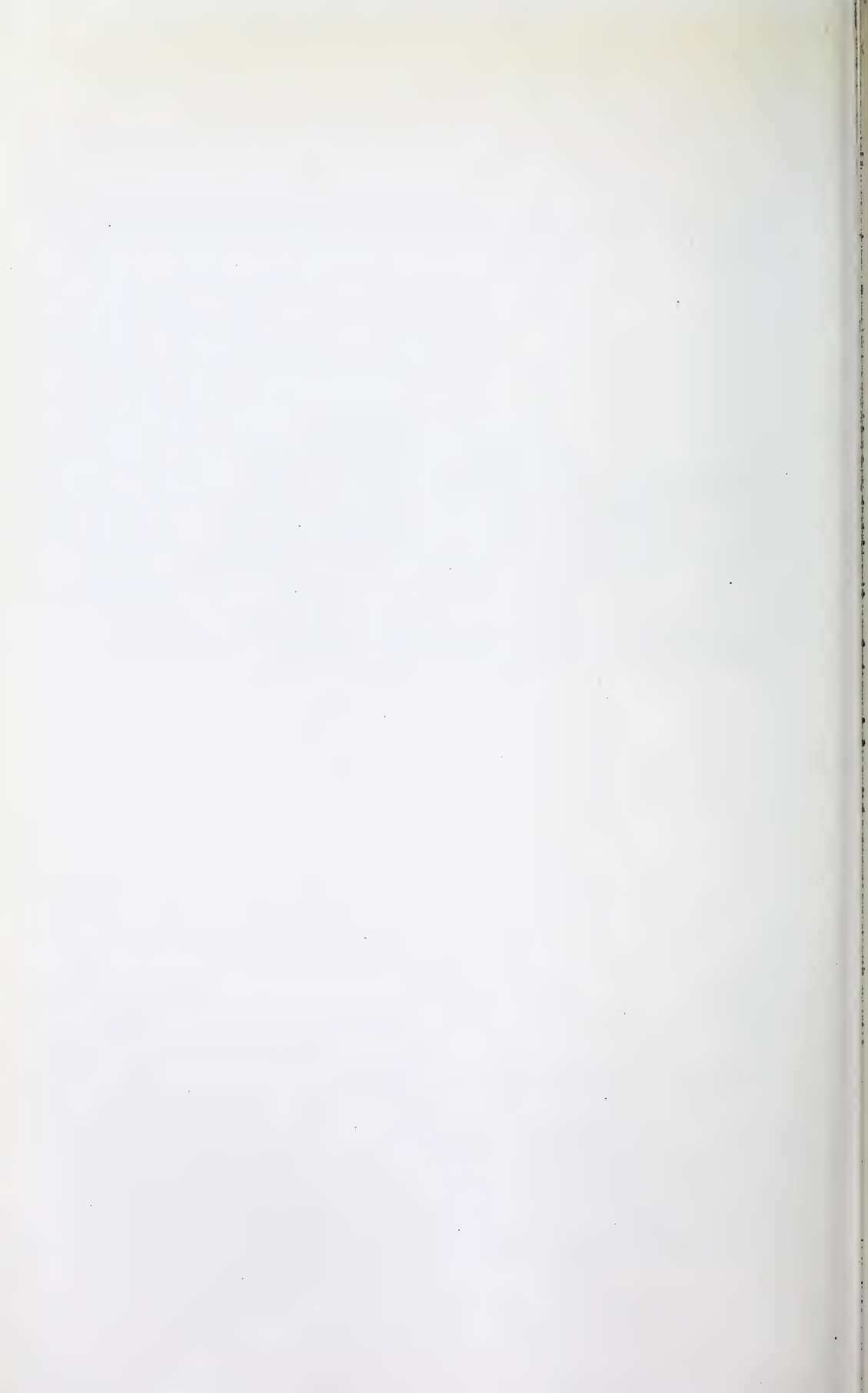
On July 1, 1898, the office was given authority to issue international money orders, and on July 1, 1901, it was made a second class office. Rural free delivery was established at that time and some of the country postoffices in the vicinity



DEAN ACADEMY, FRANKLIN



GOLDING MANUFACTURING COMPANY, FRANKLIN



were discontinued. On March 1, 1902, the town appropriated \$400 to pay for numbering the houses for the purpose of free local delivery, which was introduced on the first of September following. At the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 1917, the office reported annual receipts of about eighteen thousand dollars, and that a total of twelve people were employed.

## ALMSHOUSE

For more than half a century after Franklin was incorporated, little cost was imposed upon the people in caring for the poor. The selectmen looked after the few paupers, furnishing them with provisions, the town making an appropriation for clothing and medical attendance. In 1835 the annual town meeting voted to purchase the farm and dwelling house of Alpheus Adams for an almshouse, at a price of \$3,000, which sum was appropriated for the purpose. The house was destroyed by fire in 1868, but a new one was soon afterward built a short distance east. This property is now known as the "Town Farm" and is valued at \$7,000.

## FINANCIAL

In their report for the year 1916, the assessors announced the total valuation of the property in the town as having been fixed at \$5,835,812.50. The value of property belonging to the town as a corporation on April 1, 1916, was as follows:

School Buildings .....	\$125,000
Grand Army Hall.....	2,000
Town Hall .....	2,500
Public Parks .....	6,000
Fire Buildings and Apparatus.....	15,000
Town Farm .....	7,000
Sewer Beds and Buildings.....	7,000
Waterworks .....	200,000
Lucretia Pond Fund.....	1,000
Total .....	<u>\$365,500</u>

These values, as fixed by the board of assessors, are considered by local financiers as conservative. At the same time the town treasurer reported the town's liabilities to be as shown in the following table:

Water Bonds .....	\$218,000.00
School Bonds .....	22,000.00
Sewer Bonds .....	157,000.00
Sewer Notes .....	8,000.00
Sewer Bond Fund.....	47,105.87
All other evidences of indebtedness.....	16,332.69

Total Debt .....

\$468,438.56

Thus it will be seen that the corporate property of the town is equal in value to more than 75 per cent of the public debt. The principal expenditures for the year 1916 were as follows:

Schools .....	\$41,616.12
Waterworks .....	28,728.31
Streets and Highways.....	21,557.85
Sewer System .....	10,914.51
Government, Salaries, etc.....	8,190.11
Interest on Bonds.....	17,667.78
Fire Department .....	3,623.00
Police .....	3,310.50

Of the fund expended on the waterworks, \$20,495.98 was received from the sale of water, and in the poor account \$1,731.59 came from the sale of produce from the town farm and \$1,216.82 from other towns.

#### THE FRANKLIN OF THE PRESENT

In 1910 the United States census gave Franklin a population of 5,641, and the state census of 1915 reported it to be 6,440, a gain of 799 in five years. Franklin is established upon the firm business basis of a number of substantial manufacturing concerns, which produce cotton and woolen goods, felt and straw hats, shoddy, rubber goods, pianos, knit goods, carriages, etc. There are two banks, a semi-weekly newspaper (the Sentinel), steam and electric railway lines that afford ample transportation facilities, churches of various denominations, a fine public library, hotels, mercantile establishments, and many handsome residences. Social life is well represented by a thriving country club and a Young Men's Christian Association. The Dean Academy, one of the best known educational institutions in Eastern Massachusetts, is located here. Unionville and Wadsworth, the only postoffices in the town outside of Franklin Village, are thriving business centers.

The principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917 were: Fred E. Mason, Jacob F. Geb and Palmer A. Woodward, selectmen; Michael J. Costello, clerk; Albert H. Martin, treasurer and tax collector; Lawrence J. Kelley, Ernest L. Metcalf and Edward L. Cook, assessors; George A. Allen, David W. Corson and George E. Emerson, overseers of the poor; Walter E. Morse, auditor; Bradley M. Rockwood, Fred P. Chapman and Harry T. Hayward, water and sewer commissioners; James R. Hosford, William Hodge and George W. Wiggin, school committee.

## CHAPTER XIX

### THE TOWN OF HOLBROOK

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—POLITICAL HISTORY—RANDOLPH OPPOSED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW TOWN—THE ORGANIC ACT—EARLY TOWN MEETINGS—TOWN HALL—HOW THE TOWN WAS NAMED—THE TOWN SEAL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT—HOLBROOK TODAY—TOWN OFFICERS.

Holbrook is one of the small towns of Norfolk County. It is situated in the southeastern part and is bounded on the north by Braintree; on the east by Weymouth; on the south by Plymouth County; and on the west by the towns of Randolph and Avon. The Cochato River forms the boundary line between Holbrook and Randolph and there are a few small streams in the town, part of which are tributary to the Cochato and the others flow southwardly into Plymouth County. The general surface of the town is undulating, though the hills here are not so well defined as in some other sections of the county.

#### POLITICAL HISTORY

Holbrook was originally a part of Braintree. When the Town of Randolph was set off from Braintree on March 9, 1793, it included the present Town of Holbrook, which remained a part of Randolph for nearly eighty years. The early history of the town is therefore embraced in the chapters on Braintree and Randolph. For many years the people living east of the Old Colony (now the New York, New Haven & Hartford) Railroad discussed in a desultory sort of way the advisability of dividing Randolph and establishing a new town east of the railroad or the Cochato River. Two meetings to consider this subject were held in January, 1867, but there was such a diversity of opinion that the matter was dropped for the time being. One thing, however, was demonstrated, and that was that the majority of the citizens of East Randolph, as that portion of the town was called, were in favor of the erection of a new town, the lack of unanimity occurring mainly on matters of minor detail.

Early in the fall of 1871 those who most earnestly desired the separation of Randolph and the establishment of a new town, began work in earnest. Their efforts culminated in a citizens' meeting, which was largely attended, on Tuesday evening, December 5, 1871. L. S. Whitcomb was called to the chair and E. F. Lincoln was elected secretary. As soon as the meeting was organized by the election of these officers, Frank W. Lewis offered the following: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that it is expedient that the portion of Randolph lying east of the Old Colony & Newport Railroad be set off from the main town and incorporated as a new town."

After some discussion the resolution was adopted with only one dissenting vote. The next day a petition, signed by Elisha N. Holbrook and thirteen other residents of the territory it was proposed to include in the new town, was filed in the office of the secretary of state, and on the 8th a copy of the petition was served upon the Town of Randolph by a deputy sheriff. Another meeting was held on Saturday evening, December 9, 1871, at which Elisha N. Holbrook offered to give to the new town, in the event of its incorporation, the sum of \$50,000, of which \$25,000 should be used for the purpose of erecting a town hall and establishing a public library, and the remainder for the payment of the town debt which it might be necessary to assume if set off from Randolph.

#### RANDOLPH'S OPPOSITION

At the meeting of December 9, 1871, it was voted that the Legislature be petitioned to establish a new town, to be called Holbrook, and that E. W. Morton of Boston be engaged to look after the interests, as counsel, of the advocates of division. The petition was presented in the state senate early in January, 1872, by Senator Carpenter of Foxboro. Up to this time the people of the western portion of Randolph had not given serious thought to the project. Now they began to bestir themselves. A meeting was held in Stetson Hall on January 18, 1872, "to take action on the petition of E. N. Holbrook and others." At that meeting it was voted to appoint a committee to oppose the division of the town, and to instruct the representative in the Legislature, Ludovicus F. Wild of East Randolph, "to carry out the expressed wish of the town, or resign." Many citizens of the eastern part of the town were present at the meeting and voiced their protest, but they were outvoted, as had often occurred before. Hearings before the Legislative committee on towns began on the 24th of January, Mr. Morton appearing in behalf of the petitioners, and B. W. Harris for the remonstrants. Before the hearings were concluded Elisha N. Holbrook died on February 5, 1872.

Mr. Holbrook's death cast a gloom over the people of East Randolph, but they went on with the fight. On February 8, 1872, the senate committee reported a bill for the incorporation of the Town of Holbrook, which was finally passed by that body on the 13th, by a vote of twenty-five to ten. Then began the contest in the house, where the most serious opposition was encountered. After hearing both petitioners and remonstrants in the committee rooms, the bill was reported for passage, though both sides were indefatigable in trying to secure enough votes to enact or defeat the bill, as the case might be. On the 19th, after being debated for the greater part of two days, the bill passed its first reading by a vote of 113 to 91. The bill was finally passed and was approved on February 29, 1872, by the governor.

#### THE ORGANIC ACT

Following is a copy of the more important sections of the act of incorporation: "Section 1. All the territory now within the town of Randolph, in the County of Norfolk, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at the stone monument in the line between said Randolph and the Town of Braintree, on the easterly side of Tumbling Brook; thence taking a southwesterly course in

a straight line to a point six feet westerly from the northwesterly corner in range of the northerly side of the so-called East Randolph station-house of the Old Colony & Newport Railroad Company; thence the same or other southwesterly course to a point on the town line dividing Randolph and Stoughton, one hundred and fourteen rods southeasterly from the town stone monument in said last-mentioned dividing line, at the southerly terminus of Main Street in said Randolph; thence southeasterly, northeasterly, northerly and westerly as the present dividing line between said Randolph and Stoughton, North Bridgewater, Abington, Weymouth and Braintree runs, to the first-mentioned bound, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Holbrook; and said Town of Holbrook is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and is subject to all the duties and requisitions to which other towns are entitled and subjected by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

"Section 2. The inhabitants of said Town of Holbrook shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes which have been legally assessed upon them by the Town of Randolph, and all taxes heretofore assessed and not collected shall be collected and paid to the treasurer of the Town of Randolph in the same manner as if this act had not been passed; and also their proportion of all County and State taxes that may be assessed upon them previously to the taking of the next State valuation, said proportion to be ascertained and determined by the last valuation in the said Randolph.

"Section 3. Said towns of Randolph and Holbrook shall be respectively liable for the support of all persons who now do or shall hereafter stand in need of relief as paupers, whose settlement was gained by or derived from a settlement gained or derived within their respective limits; and the Town of Holbrook shall also pay annually to the Town of Randolph one-third part of all costs of the support or relief of those persons who now do or shall hereafter stand in need of relief of support as paupers, and have gained a settlement in said Town of Randolph in consequence of the military services of themselves or those through whom they derive their settlement.

"Section 4. The corporate property belonging to the Town of Randolph at the date of this act, and the public debt of the said town existing at said date, shall be divided between the towns of Randolph and Holbrook according to the valuation of the property within their respective limits as assessed May 1, 1871; and said Town of Holbrook shall receive from said Town of Randolph a proportionate part of whatever amount may hereafter be refunded to the Town of Randolph from the State or United States to reimburse said Town of Randolph for bounties to soldiers, or State aid paid to soldiers' families after deducting all reasonable expenses; and said Town of Holbrook shall bear the expense of making the survey and establishing the line between said towns of Randolph and Holbrook."

#### EARLY TOWN MEETINGS

The first town meeting in Holbrook was held in the East Parish meeting house on March 11, 1872. Lemuel S. Whitcomb was chosen moderator, after which the meeting proceeded to the election of town officers, with the following result: John Adams, E. W. Thayer and Lemuel S. Whitcomb, selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor; Frank W. Lewis, clerk and treasurer; Jacob Whitcomb, collector

of taxes; Ludovicus Wild, Newton White and Nathaniel E. Hobart, auditors; Hiram Belcher, Thomas West and Royal Thayer, fence viewers; Samuel L. White, S. R. Hodge and Z. P. Jordan, constables; Warren Thayer, sealer of weights and measures; Edward Belcher and Samuel D. Chase, engineers of the fire department; Frank W. Lewis, Barton Howard and Charles H. Paine, school committee.

One of the early business transactions to come before the Holbrook town meetings for consideration was the adjustment of the town's proportion of the Randolph debt, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the act of incorporation. After the subject had been discussed in several town meetings, an arrangement was made with Randolph by which the selectmen of the two towns were appointed to adjust the indebtedness and divide the town property. The joint committee met several times and finally presented to the citizens of the two towns for their approval a report of the manner in which the town property had been divided and an itemized statement of the public debt. The documents were signed by all the selectmen and the one relating to the division of the debt bore the following indorsement: "Randolph, March 19, 1873. It is hereby agreed and certified that there has been paid by the Town of Holbrook to the Town of Randolph the balance of indebtedness as within stated, amounting to \$14,988.94, with interest on the same from February 1 to March 1, 1873, of \$74.94, making \$15,063.88." This sum was paid out of the fund left by Elisha N. Holbrook.

#### TOWN HALL

In 1873 the town erected a town hall on Franklin Street, just south of Linfield, adjoining the Winthrop Church. It was a frame building, with brick basement, forty-eight by ninety feet in dimensions, and two stories high. On the main floor at the rear were provided quarters for the public library. Early on Christmas morning in 1877, fire broke out in the building and both it and the church were totally destroyed.

Immediately after the fire, the citizens took the preliminary steps for the erection of a new town hall, which was completed and dedicated on March 26, 1879. It is a brick edifice, the main portion of which is fifty-three by one hundred feet, with forty-four feet wings on either side. On the main floor are two rooms used for mercantile purposes, rooms for the town officers and quarters for the public library. The main hall on the second floor is fifty by ninety feet. A stone tablet in the front wall of the building bears the inscription:

Holbrook Town Hall  
Erected 1878  
The Gift of  
E. N. Holbrook.

On the last day of February, 1898, the town hall was again seriously damaged by fire, but was immediately repaired, a few changes being made in the original design. The building was once more brought into use on June 11, 1898.

About half past five o'clock on the morning of March 2, 1916, fire was discovered in the town hall. A general alarm was sounded, the fire department and many of the citizens promptly responded and the building was saved without serious damage. The cause of the fire was defective electric wiring. As the struc-

ture had to be repaired, the town took advantage of the occasion to make a number of changes and altogether the sum of \$11,138.89 was expended in the repairs and alterations, giving Holbrook a town house that is modern in every respect and ample for the needs of the town for years to come.

#### HOW THE TOWN WAS NAMED

A. E. Sproul, writing in 1884, concerning the manner in which the town received its name, says: "The idea which still remains current to a considerable extent, particularly outside the borders of the present town, that Mr. Holbrook made his munificent gift conditional upon the proposed town being named for him, deserves emphatic contradiction at the hands of the present writer, based upon the most reliable contemporary testimony. At the meeting where the generous proposal was made, the citizens assembled at once brought forward the name 'Holbrook' for the new town, and it received almost unanimous approval by the townspeople. The name was adopted not so much in honor of any one man as in recognition of a family of old residents, who had become wealthy in the prosecution of legitimate business, and who had always shown themselves enterprising and public spirited, and alive to the interests of the community with which they were for so many years identified. At the meeting of December 9th, therefore, it was immediately voted that the Legislature be petitioned to name the new town Holbrook, if incorporated, and three cheers were given for the name, and three more and a vote of thanks for Mr. Holbrook."

#### THE TOWN SEAL

The corporate seal of Holbrook, which was adopted soon after the town government was organized, is of neat and appropriate design. In the center of a circular field is a shield bearing a portrait of Elisha N. Holbrook, and above the portrait are the words "Cochato, 1634." To the right of the shield are a plow and scythe, and to the left an anvil and hammer, typifying the agricultural and manufacturing interests of the town. Above the shield is an arm brandishing a drawn sword, signifying that Holbrook can be relied on to do her part in war as well as in peace. In the upper left of the circular field is the legend: "Braintree—1640" and in the upper right, "Randolph—1793," showing Holbrook's civic connections before it was organized as a separate town. In a circle around the margin of the seal is the inscription: "Town of Holbrook, Mass., Incorporated 1872."

#### WATERWORKS

By the act of May 8, 1885, the towns of Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook were severally or jointly authorized to supply themselves with water from Great Pond, to construct buildings, lay pipes, etc., and for the construction of such waterworks, buildings and pipes, each town was authorized to issue bonds in any sum not exceeding \$100,000. The act was to become effective when it was accepted by a two-thirds vote of any or all the towns.

Braintree made other arrangements about a water supply, but the towns of Holbrook and Randolph accepted the provisions of the act and jointly constructed

a system of waterworks to supply the citizens with water for domestic purposes and provide better protection against loss by fire. Subsequently Holbrook was authorized to issue additional bonds to the amount of \$35,000 to complete her portion of the works. A pumping station was built at Great Pond and standpipes erected in each of the towns, and the water was turned into the mains in the summer of 1886. (See also the chapter on Randolph.)

During the year 1916 the board of water commissioners laid 6,122 feet of new main, most of it of six inch pipe. In his report of the condition of the works, Herbert S. Child, the town auditor, says: "The receipts of this year show a marked increase over last year, the uncollected accounts are about \$600.00 more and the surplus of revenue is \$2,129.56. These figures certainly prove that the year 1916 was a prosperous year, which is due to the able and efficient management of the commissioners."

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Holbrook has two fire stations—one adjoining the town hall and the other at Brookville, in the southern part of the town. Each station is equipped with hook and ladder truck and hose wagon, and the hydrant service of the waterworks is extended to all parts of the town. According to the report of the board of engineers for the year 1916, the expense of maintaining the department was \$1,863.57, and twenty-two calls were answered, two of which were false alarms. The members of the department receive pay only for the time actually employed at fires, or in work connected with the department.

#### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

Holbrook had no corporate existence at the time of the Civil war, being then a part of Randolph. However, a number of men living within the borders of the present town enlisted in some of the Massachusetts volunteer regiments and served their country throughout the war. At the annual town meeting on March 1, 1916, a communication was received from E. E. Holbrook offering to pay one half the cost of a soldiers' monument, to commemorate the valor of those who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Union. The meeting extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Holbrook for his generous offer and referred the matter to a committee composed of the following citizens: Charles E. Brown, W. B. Emery, George E. Kent, John King, Charles S. Ludden, Patrick A. Mack, Charles H. McCarter, Arthur W. Paine and E. N. Thayer.

At a special meeting on October 11, 1916, the committee reported in favor of erecting a monument, the cost of which should not exceed three thousand dollars, to be located in the park near the town hall, and that Mr. Holbrook would contribute \$1,500 of the amount. The meeting then voted to appropriate \$1,500, to be taken from the tax levy of 1917, and that Louis E. Flye, Philip H. Fraher, J. F. Megley, John W. Porter, H. H. Sampson and Ellis A. White be added to the committee, which should have full charge of the fund and the construction of the monument. The design selected was that of Thomas Carrigg & Son of Holbrook. It consists of a pedestal of Westerly granite, upon which is the figure of an infantry soldier in bronze, seven feet high, marching with his musket at a "right

shoulder shift." Upon the front of the pedestal in neat raised letters is the inscription: "This memorial is erected to honor those who offered their lives to gain and preserve the liberty of this nation." The monument was dedicated on May 30, 1917.

## HOLBROOK TODAY

Holbrook is what might be termed an average town. In 1915 eleven of the twenty-eight towns in Norfolk County reported a smaller population, and seven showed a lower valuation of property. The population at that time was 2,948, a gain over the United States census of 1910 of 132, and the valuation of property was \$1,990,337. The Boston & Middleboro division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad passes through the town, and the transportation facilities are augmented by the electric line that runs from Quincy to Brockton. Holbrook has six public school buildings, churches of different denominations, some of the fraternal organizations are represented by lodges, there is a good public library, the streets are well kept and lighted by electricity, parks and playgrounds have been provided for recreation and the accommodation of the children, and there are postoffices at Holbrook and Brookville. Formerly there were several shoe factories in the town, but only one concern of this character remains, the others having either been discontinued or removed to other locations.

Following is a list of the principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917: George W. Porter, John King and Ira W. Paine, selectmen and overseers of the poor; Zenas A. French, clerk; Eugene Snell, treasurer; Frank W. Holbrook, tax collector; George W. Porter, Charles H. McCarter and A. C. Belcher, assessors; Frank L. Hayden, W. F. Bourbeau and Arthur W. Paine, water commissioners; Philip H. Fraher, George E. White and James A. Windle, park commissioners; Melvin Coulter, Ellis A. White and George A. Nason, fire engineers; Herbert S. Child, auditor; S. B. Field, Frank T. White and Mrs. Sibyl Niles, school committee.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE TOWN OF MEDFIELD

IN THE BEGINNING—AS A PART OF DEDHAM—NEW TOWN FIRST PROPOSED—PETITION TO GENERAL COURT—THE RESULT—OTHER TERRITORY SET ASIDE—THE NAME—AGREEMENT AND COMMITTEE—FIRST HOUSE LOTS—FURTHER SETTLEMENTS—SURRENDER OF JURISDICTION—INCORPORATION—A DISCREPANCY IN DATES—FIRST YEARS OF EXISTENCE—DIVISION OF THE TOWN—DIVISION OF COUNTY—POPULATION—POSTOFFICE—THE TOWN HALL—PROMINENT EARLY CITIZENS—PUBLIC LIBRARY—PUBLIC UTILITIES—FIRST VITAL STATISTICS—FIRST VALUATIONS—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The town of Medfield is located in the western portion of Norfolk County, Massachusetts. The town is of irregular form and is bounded as follows: on the north by the town of Dover; on the east by a portion of Dover and Walpole; on the south by Walpole and Norfolk; and on the west by the Charles River which separates Medfield from Millis and Middlesex County. The Charles River on the west is, of course, the most important stream of this town, with Stop River as a tributary flowing through the central and southern parts of the county.

#### IN THE BEGINNING

Although much detail concerning the Indian history of this territory is given in the chapter devoted to that subject, something of it must necessarily be given as an introduction to the settlement and organization of the town of Medfield. All the region to the southwest of Boston was occupied by several Indian tribes, among them the Natick, the Neponset and the Nipmuck; the whole organization of Indian tribes in this section of the country bore the general name of Massachusett. They were at first friendly with the white men, but after the English had accorded them harsh treatment at different times, their friendship changed to open hostility.

The territory south and east of the Charles River was included in the domain of the Neponset. The sachem of this tribe, Chickatabot, was friendly with the English from the beginning, frequently making treaties with both the Plymouth and Bay colonies. About the year 1632 William Pynchon of Boston, afterwards of Springfield, purchased from Chickatabot all of the territory lying between the Charles River and the Neponset River. This land embraced what is now the town of Medfield, as well as several other Norfolk County towns as far south as the Rhode Island line. The boundaries of this purchase were very poorly defined at the time of the purchase, consequently in after years trouble arose between the Indians and whites over the exact boundary lines, particularly that of the south. In 1635 the colonial government asked for persons who were present at the time

of the purchase and could place the boundary lines as they were laid down. However, no one came forward with the information. Many of the Indians, including Chickatabot himself, had been stricken with death by the smallpox scourge of 1633 and there were few left to respond.

#### AS A PART OF DEDHAM

The Town of Dedham was incorporated in 1636 and included "all the lands on the easterly and southerly side of Charles River not formerly granted to any town or particular person." Roxbury had been set off from the Pynchon purchase prior to this time, so Dedham, when formed, comprised all the remainder of the territory included in that purchase, including that now in Medfield. Medfield remained a part of Dedham for a period of fourteen or fifteen years.

The land now within the Town of Medfield was little used for many years, except as pasture and hay land. All of the territory of the Charles River valley between Medfield on the east and Medway and Sherborn on the west, with adjacent lands, was called Boggestow by the Indians. The present Town of Dedham embraced but a small portion of this. The plain a mile east of the village was known as the "herd-house plain," proving beyond a doubt that citizens from Dedham, and possibly from other settlements utilized this vicinity as a pasture ground. As early as 1642 Dedham granted to one of her citizens a farm of 350 acres "to lie in or about that place called Boggestow, or not far from thence." This tract of land was on the east side of the river and was afterward bought in by the selectmen of Medfield, no settlement having been made on the site.

#### NEW TOWN FIRST PROPOSED

The first move for the formation of a new settlement and town was made by citizens of Dedham, principally because several of the men of Dedham found the town too small for them and, in addition, wished to gain good landed property for themselves. There is a well founded supposition that certain of these reactionaries desired a little more freedom in religious matters and in political discussions. Ralph Wheelock was the principal man in the "new territory" group. He had been educated in England and at first had been a preacher in the established church, later becoming a dissenter. It is thought that Dedham was not entirely agreeable to Wheelock at this time. Consequently, a number of citizens, led by Wheelock, proposed a scheme to make a new town out of a portion of Dedham, also a corresponding portion of land lying on the west side of the river, so including the river bed and the adjacent rich meadows.

#### PETITION TO GENERAL COURT

A petition was written, signed by the citizens interested, and presented to the General Court, asking for a grant of land on the west side of the river. This petition, unfortunately, has not been preserved, but the following order is inscribed on the records of the court:

"In answer to a petition of the inhabitants of Dedham for a parcel of upland and meadow adjoining to their line, to make a village in quantity four miles south

and north and three miles east and west, because they are 'streightned' at their doors by other towns and rocky lands, etc. Their request is granted so as they erect a distinct village thereupon within one year from this day, October 23, 1649, and Captain Keaine, Mr. Edward Jackson and the surveyor general are appointed to lay it out at any time, Dedham giving them a week's warning."

Thus, the date of this grant is fixed on October 23, 1649. The land described in the above has been called the "old grant," and embraced what was later East Medway and now the Town of Millis.

#### THE RESULT

The men appointed by the General Court to lay out the lands west of the river performed their specified duty. In the colonial record for May 22, 1650, appears the following:

"Whereas there was a grant made by the General Court at a session the 22d of the 8th month, 1649, unto the inhabitants of Dedham in answer to a petition of theirs for the enlargement of the village there, as by the said grant may more fully appear, this grant, so made, was laid out by Capt. Robert Keaine and Mr. Edward Jackson, who have subscribed it with their hands in manner and form following: beginning at a small hill, or island, in the meadow on the west side of the Charles River, and running from thence about full west three miles, and then, turning a south line, ended at the Charles River at three miles and a quarter, this line being there shorter than by the grant it was allowed to be, but accepted by grantee, the said river is appointed to be the bounds from that place to the place where the first line began. The court doth approve of this return of the persons above mentioned concerning the bounds of the said village and in answer to the inhabitants of Dedham 'doe order that it shalbe called (Meadfield).'"

In the above the small hill, or island, mentioned is about one quarter mile north of the Boggestow pond; the line "about full west" nearly the present line between Medway and Sherborn and Holliston; the "south line" marks the indentation in the north boundary of Medway and came to the river a little west of Medway village.

#### OTHER TERRITORY SET ASIDE

On November 14th, shortly after the grant had been obtained from the General Court, a town meeting was held in Dedham and a portion of the original Dedham territory set apart for the new town. The town voted that there should be "granted for the accommodation of the village so much land within the west end of the bounds of Dedham next Boggestow as is or may be contained within the extent of three miles east and west and four miles north and south—the form and line to be varied and altered as in the judgment of such men as shall be deputed thereunto shall seem for the most convenient accomadation both of Dedham and the said village."

In the following January three men, Ensign Phillips, John Dwight and Daniel Fisher, were appointed to lay out this grant before the middle of April, 1650. The records show that they accomplished their mission satisfactorily. This made two separate actions taken by the citizens of Dedham for the formation of the

new town of Medfield. The first was the petition to the General Court, the grant by that body and the appointment of Keaine and Jackson to lay out the said grant; the second action was the independent move of Dedham, severing a portion of its territory from the western side of the town and adding it to the land obtained by the General Court's grant, also the appointment of Phillips, Dwight and Fisher to lay it out.

#### THE NAME

The why and wherefore of the name Medfield has been described in several ways. In the report made by Captain Robert Keaine and Edward Jackson is the following: "doe order that it shalbe called (Meadfield)." The fact that the name is contained in brackets seems to be sufficient proof that it had not been decided upon, but was incorporated in the report later. In other of the earlier records the name is also spelled Meadfield and Medfield. Of the reasons advanced for the name the principal ones are: first, the open field where the village was afterward erected was called the "meadow field," hence the contraction into Medfield; second, that there were open fields north and south of the town, which led to the name of "mid field;" and third, that many of the settlers near here came from the towns of Dedham and Medfield in Old England, which lay very close together. Tradition says that the town of Medfield in New England received as a present a bell from Medfield, England; however, no confirmation of this incident is available. The latter theory of the origin of the name is the most plausible. It is true that Dedham received her name in this manner, which lends strength to the conjecture that Medfield also received a name similarly.

#### AGREEMENT AND COMMITTEE

At the town meeting held in Dedham, November 14, 1649, a committee was appointed to look after the affairs of the proposed town of Medfield. This committee was composed of the following men: Ralph Wheelock, Thomas Wight, Robert Hinsdale, Henry Chickering, John Dwight, Peter Woodward and Eleazer Lusher. These men were chosen principally to superintend the various activities incident to the new territory prior to the time of incorporation.

At the same meeting in Dedham the question was proposed and discussed as to the conditions upon which the lands were to be granted. Some of those present desired that they be freely given, while others, in consideration of their town rights in the meadows, thought the grantees should pay the sum of £ 100 "to be divided among such of the inhabitants of Dedham as do not remove to the village." This latter view prevailed, but the amount the settler should pay was afterward reduced to £50.

Wheelock, Hinsdale and Thomas Wight were the first to go to the new settlement; Chickering, John Dwight and Woodward were named to remain in Dedham and act for that town; while Eleazer Lusher was appointed clerk of the town until Medfield was officially recognized.

About this time the "agreement" was drawn up by the committee, in all probability written by Ralph Wheelock himself, who was the foremost figure. Among the things provided for in this agreement were: that all persons receiving grants

of land from the new town should become subject to the town government; that all differences of opinion or discussions were to be settled by reference or arbitration, without resorting to the courts; that no one should be permitted to become a townsman, but such as were honest, peaceable and free from the burden of a bad reputation; that grants of land were to be given to the settlers according to the extent of their wealth and the number of people in the family; that no one was to receive in the first grant more than twelve acres of upland and twelve of meadow, nor less than six of each; and that none should receive lands except those who intended to become actual settlers, also that all settlements should be made before the end of May, 1651. Teachers and church officers were specially provided for and the probable town hall site set off for the minister, which in this case went to Rev. John Wilson. A tablet is now fixed to the town hall marking this home of the first minister; it was set in place by the Medfield Historical Society.

The first roads were also designated about this time, but no record exists of their exact location. The main road from Dedham to Boggestow entered Medfield near Foundry Street. A bridge was constructed across the Charles River near the later town farm and a road run eastward through the town to Dedham. From this road, at the center of the town, a road ran northward, now North Street, and another south, near Pleasant Street. The meeting house lot and the cemetery were laid out about the same time.

#### FIRST HOUSE LOTS

The committee in charge of affairs held a meeting on May 10, 1650, when provisions were made for the laying out of house lots in Medfield. Thomas Wight, Robert Hinsdale, Timothy Dwight, Samuel Bullen and John Frairy were appointed to assist the surveyor, or "measurer," in this work. Also, every grantee was ordered to pay the sum of one shilling to the collector, Thomas Wight. On June 19, 1650, the committee named proceeded to lay out the first thirteen house lots in the new town.

Number One went to Ralph Wheelock; this consisted of twelve acres at the west corner of Main and North Streets. Number Two was taken by John Ellis; his lot later was known as the Upham Place. These two, with that of Rev. John Wilson, were the only lots then taken on Main Street. Each of three had what was known as a "home field" on the opposite side of the street, extending through as far as Oak Street. Lot Number Three was apportioned to Samuel Bullen. This site was on the lane leading out of Philip Street, near South Street. Number Four was given to Daniel Morse, consisting of twelve acres next to that of Samuel Bullen "to the southeast and brook southwest." Numbers Five, Six, Seven and Eight were assigned to James Allen, Joseph Clark, Francis Hamant and John Turner respectively, all on South Street from the Rhodes House to the corner of Curve Street. To John Frairy went Number Nine, comprising twelve acres on what is now Frairy Street. Timothy Dwight received twelve acres on the same street, his lot being Number Ten. Number Eleven consisted of three and a half acres on the later site of the Edmund Chenery home, from the brook to Green Street, and was granted to Robert Hinsdale. Number Twelve was granted to Thomas Wight and Number Thirteen to John Wight, his son. These latter two

were located east of the Hinsdale grant, on the lane leading to their houses, now Green Street, but for many years called Wight's Lane.

#### FURTHER SETTLEMENTS

During the following year there was little or no building in the new town. Isaac Chenery and Henry Smith located on South Street beyond Oak Street. Joshua Fisher, George Barber and John Thurston obtained lots on East Main Street from Reverend Wilson's home to the Hewins Place. John Bullard, John Plimpton and John Metcalf located their homes on West Main Street from the railroad to the cemetery. Joseph Morse, with his aged father, Samuel, obtained grants on Pound Street. John Pratt, William Partridge, Thomas Ellis, Thomas Mason and John Partridge selected sites on North Street. Ten families came to the new town from Weymouth and Braintree. These consisted of Benjamin Alby, John Bowers, Nicholas Rockwood, Alexander Lovell, Abraham Harding, Henry Adams, John Fussell, Edward Adams, Peter Adams and Margaret Sheppard. All took lots on Bridge Street, in the order named, from the almshouse to the corner of Bridge and Main Streets. The above named persons, with the original thirteen grantees, constituted the first settlers of the town of Medfield. The first family to remove to their Medfield home was that of Samuel Bullen, whose house stood near Philip Street.

#### SURRENDER OF JURISDICTION

January 11, 1651, a general meeting of the inhabitants of Dedham was held, at which time the following vote was passed: "It is by the town of Dedham consented unto and ordered that the power, right and privilege of town government that hath hitherto and is remaining in the township of Dedham, or any of their trustees or assigns, whereby they have and did act in and on behalf of the town of Medfield, shall be, or hereby is, wholly or totally transmitted and delivered into the hands, power and disposing of the township of Medfield in general and the selectmen thereof and their successors forever. And do also further agree with those of Medfield that are now present that such care as is necessary that due and seasonable payment be made of that debt due from Medfield to this town upon reasonable demand thereof. And further, promise as much forbearance thereof as the public occasion of the town admit of."

#### INCORPORATION

The sanction of the General Court was given on May 22, 1651, by an act entitled "Medfield's Power," which read as follows:

"There being a town lately erected beyond Dedham, in the county of Suffolk, upon the Charles River, called by the name of Meadfeild, upon their request made to this General Court, this court hath granted them all the powers and privileges which other towns do enjoy according to law." Medfield was the forty-third town in the colony in the order of incorporation. The first board of selectmen for Medfield consisted of Ralph Wheelock, Timothy Dwight, Robert Hinsdale, John Frairy and Benjamin Alby, with Henry Adams as clerk.

## A DISCREPANCY IN DATES

In the above account of the incorporation of the town of Medfield the year 1651 is given as the time of this occurrence. To this statement there may be a difference of opinion. The date is that used by W. S. Tilden in his various historical descriptions of the town. Mr. Tilden, while living, was known as a careful student and writer of history and his works bear a reputation of accuracy and veracity. However, there are other authorities which place the date of incorporation in the year 1650. The Manual for the General Court, 1917, also the New England Historic Genealogical Society's publication known as the Medfield Vital Records, place the date of incorporation as May 22, 1650.

## FIRST YEARS OF EXISTENCE

It has been stated before that the first family to move to Medfield to take up residence was that of Samuel Bullen, whose house stood near Philip Street. The meadows surrounding the village proper were laid out into grants in the year 1652 and given to the owners of house lots. The following year the lands easily accessible to cultivation were divided, according to persons and estates, each member of the household being appraised at ten pounds. The same year the town clerk began the vital records—births, deaths and marriages—which have been continued until the present time.

The custom of burning over all the waste lands in November of each year, which custom was learned from the Indians, was continued in Medfield for many years. The purpose was to clear the land of underbrush and so provide good pasturage for the live stock.

For many years, or prior to 1660, the granting of house lots to new settlers, the division of wood lands, laying out town roads, making provisions for fences and bounds, and adopting other ordinances for the good of the community gave the settlers plenty to do. A pair of stocks for the punishment of the unruly were also placed upon a public spot.

The territory west of the river was enlarged in the year 1659 by what was known as the "new grant." This land covered an area of two miles east and west and four miles north and south. All the owners of house lots in Medfield shared in the division of this territory, the same being laid out in portions of fifty to one hundred and fifty acres. Very soon afterward families began to settle on the west side of the river.

The first emigration from the town occurred about the year 1670, when the Hinsdales, Plimptons and Frairys removed to the Connecticut Valley. Near the same time a post road was established from Boston to Hartford and a road laid out from Medfield to Mendon. In 1672 John Awashamog, an Indian of Natick, laid claim to the territory west of the Charles River. The Natick tribe had been the original holders of this territory and it would seem that the Indian's claim bore some weight, for it was compromised by the payment of twenty-one pounds. The year 1676 was a memorable one in the history of Medfield, for in this year occurred King Philip's war and the burning of Medfield. Details of this disastrous event may be found in Chapter III of this volume.

Again, in 1685, Josias, a son of Chickatabot, made a claim to the lands within

the town of Medfield. Mr. Pyncheon had already purchased the land and paid for it, but as no deed could be discovered the town was forced to compromise with the Indian for ten pounds four shillings.

The Black Swamp lands were laid out in the year 1702 to the proprietors, numbering one hundred and twenty-three. About twenty-seven of these lived west of the Charles River.

#### DIVISION OF THE TOWN

In 1712 the question of dividing the town of Medfield was seriously discussed by the citizens. In 1713 the people on the west side of the river sent a petition to the General Court, a committee was appointed and instructed to visit the land in question and make a report. This they did and advised a division of the town. By an act of the Legislature, October 25, 1713, the town of Medway was set off and the Charles River became the western boundary of Medfield. This division is treated more at length in Chapter XXI on the Town of Medway.

#### DIVISION OF COUNTY

The first moves for the division of the county of Suffolk occurred in the year 1726, but not until over a half century later did they materialize. The town of Medfield took great interest throughout this long stretch of years and frequently the discussion occupied most of the time at the town meetings. The result, as stated before, was the formation of Norfolk County in 1793. At one time the proposition was advanced to make Medfield the shire-town, but the objections of certain citizens prevented this. They said that the temptation of the citizens to visit the court room during the time of trials would be prejudicial to industrial activities.

#### POPULATION

The following table of figures relative to the population of the Town of Medfield will be found interesting in view of the fact that it has never been published in a historical volume upon Medfield. The census statistics are taken from the state and government census reports as compiled by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. It is stated by one authority that in 1675, twenty-five years after the incorporation of the town, Medfield had seventy-seven landed proprietors.

1660	(Prov.)	234
1765	(Prov.)	628
1776	(Prov.)	775
1790	(U. S.)	731
1800	(U. S.)	745
1810	(U. S.)	786
1820	(U. S.)	802
1830	(U. S.)	817
1840	(U. S.)	883
1850	(U. S.)	966

1855	(State)	984
1860	(U. S.)	1,082
1865	(State)	1,012
1870	(U. S.)	1,142
1875	(State)	1,163
1880	(U. S.)	1,371
1885	(State)	1,594
1890	(U. S.)	1,493
1895	(State)	1,872
1900	(U. S.)	2,926
1905	(State)	3,314
1910	(U. S.)	3,466
1915	(State)	3,648

## POSTOFFICE

The first effort for the establishment of a postoffice in the Town of Medfield was made in 1806. Daniel Adams wrote to Seth Hastings of Mendon, Congressman, under date of January 28, 1806, stating many reasons why Medfield should have a regularly established postoffice, also extolling his own qualities for the position of postmaster. Prior to this time the citizens had been compelled to go to Dedham or Medway for their mails. Mr. Adams did not succeed in obtaining the postmastership, although Medfield was given the office April 1, 1807, and Samuel Seaver appointed the first postmaster. He kept the office in his small store on the corner of North and Main streets, where he had succeeded Oliver Wheelock in business. The postoffice is now located in the town hall.

## THE TOWN HALL

In the year 1866 the town received a bequest from George W. Chenery for the purpose of constructing a town hall in the village of Medfield. This sum of money, amounting to \$23,700 was placed in the hands of the following trustees: Charles Hamant, Isaac Fiske and E. P. Carpenter, the latter of Foxboro. In 1869 the trustees purchased the old tavern lot in the center of the village for \$1,760 for the site of the hall. In 1872 the town hall was erected and dedicated on September 10th. The firm of Hartwell & Swasey drew the plans and the contracting was done by C. H. & W. Stewart. The total cost of the building, exclusive of the land, was \$26,668.

The citizens of Medfield were permitted to enjoy their excellent new hall but little over a year. On January 8, 1874, the building was destroyed by fire, with the exception of a small portion of the tower. The public library, the fire engine and apparatus and the hearse which was kept in the basement were all burned, also a portion of the public records. By the heroic efforts of a few of the citizens, led by Charles Hamant, the safe which contained valuable town documents, was suspended by a chain and prevented from falling into the flames below; this alone saved the most important records from destruction. The fire occurred very late at night and by the time the alarm had been turned in had progressed too far to be checked.

The town waited but a short time before taking action toward the erection of a new town hall upon the site of the old one. On January 24th a meeting was held and there a vote was taken to rebuild the hall immediately. T. W. Silloway was named as the architect and Mead, Mason & Company were awarded the contract for building. The total cost of the reconstruction was \$21,500, of which sum \$15,000 was received from the insurance. The new town hall was rededicated November 2, 1874, with appropriate exercises. The postoffice, public library, and historical society rooms are now housed in the building.

However, the library and historical society will in the near future be moved into the handsome new brick library building in process of erection opposite the town hall on Main Street. This building was given to the town of Medfield by Granville S. Dailey.

#### PROMINENT EARLY CITIZENS

The one deserving first mention among the early settlers of the town of Medfield is undoubtedly Ralph Wheelock, often spoken of as the "founder of Medfield." Wheelock received his education at Clare Hall, Cambridge University, England, where he took his degree in 1626 and 1631. For a time he was a preacher in the Established Church. In 1638 he came to Dedham, was made a freeman March 13, 1638, and died at Medfield January 11, 1684. For several generations afterward descendants of Ralph Wheelock lived in Medfield. Col. Ephraim Wheelock, his great-grandson, served in both the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars. Notwithstanding the fact that some writers have criticised Ralph Wheelock for his dissenting views, it cannot be denied that he was a man of energy, large ideas and strong executive ability. To his efforts may be credited the success of the movement to form the new town of Medfield.

The next in order of importance in early Medfield was the Rev. John Wilson, the first minister in the town, whose residence stood on the site of the town hall. Reverend Wilson commenced his pastorate here in December, 1651. He continued his work among the people of Medfield a little over forty years, when his death occurred in 1691. He was a much loved man and of sterling quality.

Timothy Dwight, son of John Dwight, one of the original thirteen house lot grantees, was a freeman June 2, 1641. Dwight was a representative for Medfield in 1652. He died in this town in the year 1677.

Daniel Morse, son of Samuel Morse, first came to Dedham and then to Medfield. He became a freeman May 6, 1635. His death occurred in Sherborn in 1688.

Thomas Wight came from the Isle of Wight to Dedham in 1637. He was of the Medfield incorporation and died March 17, 1674.

Robert Hinsdale, one of the first thirteen lot holders, became a freeman March 13, 1638. He later moved to Medfield, thence to Hadley, where he resided for several years, and then to Deerfield. At the latter place he was killed, with his three sons, by the Indians at the time of Captain Lothrop's defeat at Bloody Brook.

Samuel Bullen became a freeman June 2, 1641, and died January 16, 1692. He was one of the first settlers in the town of Medfield.

George Barber first came to Dedham in 1643, and later moved to Medfield. He became a freeman May 16, 1647, was a representative in 1668-9 and a high militia officer.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

The improvement of roads, public conveniences and private property has been a matter of gradual and substantial growth in Medfield. This growth has extended over a period of many years and is an excellent proof of the stability of the town. Another feature of Medfield at the present time is the fact that there is practically no debt to burden the citizens. In the past Medfield has bonded itself heavily, but in recent years these debts have been cleared away, leaving the town in 1917-18 in very prosperous condition.

Water is supplied by the Medfield Water Company, the supply being taken from springs. A city plant was first proposed about 1902, but never materialized. The present company was organized several years later. The Medfield Electric Light and Power Company supplies electricity to the inhabitants. This corporation was established in November, 1900.

The first attempt at sewer construction was made in the '80s, when the straw works and the town divided upon the expense of constructing a sewer to carry the waste from the factory. In 1886 the town voted to build a common sewer from a point on North Street to a point northwest of Dale Street, where a filtering basin was constructed. In 1881 a sewer had been laid from the corner of Main and Pleasant streets along North Street to the Meeting House Pond. The sewer then started has been extended at different times until now practically every street of importance in the village of Medfield is provided with this convenience. Land was donated by D. D. Curtis for the sewer-bed.

A large amount of road improvement has been accomplished within the last decade. There is hardly a half mile of roadway in the town now not improved and finished with Tarvia, a road bed composition of good wearing quality. The streets of the town were first given names in 1855, principally for the convenience in bounding lands and executing conveyances. The selectmen who performed this task and christened the roads were Charles C. Sewall, George M. Smith and Benjamin F. Shumway. In 1856 some of the old town roads were discontinued.

Adequate fire protection is supplied by the usual hook and ladder and hose companies; the excellent water supply and pressure assist greatly in the prevention of any more disastrous years of fires such as occurred in the early '70s. The first fire engine in the town was a gift some years before 1832. This antiquated engine was kept in a barn. A Hunneman fire engine was purchased in 1853 at a cost of \$600. A short time afterward an engine house was constructed on North Street and a company formed. In 1877 a hook and ladder truck, with apparatus, was purchased by the town and another company formed. The first telephone line built in the town came through in 1883.

The first step taken for the erection of a building for the care of the poor and destitute occurred in 1837 when the town purchased the farm of George Newell for \$3,100 and changed it into a poor farm. Until this time paupers were placed on public auction and sold to the lowest bidder for their support.

The visitor to Medfield town is at once impressed by the large number of stately trees lining the roadways, some of them of magnificent proportions and of great age. These trees are not all the products of chance, for in the year 1798 the citizens of the town became interested in the systematic planting of trees along



THE E. V. MITCHELL COMPANY'S HAT FACTORY, MEDFIELD



the streets. The silvan beauty of the town and village is largely the result of the enthusiasm aroused at that time for tree planting.

## FIRST VITAL STATISTICS

A daughter of John Ellis, afterward the wife of Samuel Rockwood, was first white female child born in the town.

The first death was that of the infant child of Rev. John Wilson in December, 1652. The first death among the settlers was that of John Wight in 1653.

The marriage of Thomas Mason and Margery Partridge in 1653 was the first in the town. The ceremony was performed by Eleazer Lusher of Dedham. No minister, unless possibly the Episcopal, was qualified under the English law to marry people until about thirty years later. Ralph Wheelock was appointed magistrate in 1656, then he had the privilege of conducting the marriage ceremonies in this vicinity.

The first murder in Medfield occurred in the year 1802, when William P. Allen was killed by his brother-in-law, Ebenezer Mason. Mason was tried, convicted and hanged on the 7th of October. His body was stolen from the grave shortly afterward and, although a half-hearted attempt was made to recover it, the effort was unsuccessful.

In 1656 occurred the marriage of Thomas Holbrook and Hannah Sheppard, before Ralph Wheelock and Thomas Grubb, the first before the town commissioners of Medfield.

## FIRST VALUATIONS

The first list of property valuations on record for the Town of Medfield are those of 1652, and not all of them are itemized. As an example of the method of valuations the following account under the heading of "Ralph Wheelock His Estate" is given:

	£	s.	d.
Psons. 10 .....	100	0	0
Acrs 9 bro. ....	33	0	0
Unbro. 3 .....	5	0	0
Orch. ....	10	0	0
House .....	30	0	0
Oxen 2 .....	14	0	0
Cows 2 .....	12	0	0
3 yearl. ....	5	0	0
2 yearl. ....	3	10	0
One yearl. ....	2	0	0
Debts to rece. ....	40	0	0
Overplus of first estate given in .....	20	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	274	10	0

There were thirty-four property holders listed in this first valuation of town wealth. Their names and the total valuation of their holdings are given in the following table:

John Bower .....	£91
Robert Hinsdale .....	250
John Thurston .....	246
Francis Hamant .....	101
Albert Harding .....	211
James Allin .....	139
Isaac Chenery .....	41
Edward Adams .....	104
Peter Adams .....	100
Alexander Lovell .....	88
John Plimpton .....	106
Daniel Morse .....	251
John Turner .....	116
John Bullard .....	166
John Allice .....	148
George Barber .....	240
Joseph Clark .....	183
Samuel Bullen .....	175
Henry Smith .....	183
John Wilson .....	231
John Frairy .....	316
Benjamin Alby .....	182
Timothy Dwight .....	278
Thomas Dwight .....	322
John Wight .....	88
Widow Sheppard .....	105
Joshua Fisher .....	180
Joseph Morse .....	260
Samuel Morse .....	90
Thomas Grubb .....	200
John Metcalf .....	135
Nicholas Rockwood .....	100
Henry Adams .....	210
Ralph Wheelock .....	See above
The whole valuation of the property in Medfield in 1652 totaled £5,834.	

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

In early Medfield slavery prevailed to some extent. Rev. Joseph Baxter, in his will which was probated in 1745, bequeathed to his wife the slave woman Nanny. He also named certain conditions of good behavior by which Nanny could eventually gain her freedom. Warwick Green, Colonel Wheelock's body servant during his service in the army, was brought here directly from Africa. Newport Green was another slave in this town.

A cemetery along Main Street was laid out immediately after the settlement of the town. This plot of ground was cleared of bushes and undergrowth every year and in 1843 was first enlarged by an addition of land on the north and east. A wall next to the street was built, paths and driveways laid out, and trees

planted. The resting places of only four of the original settlers could be found in recent years, the graves being those of Rev. John Wilson, Samuel Bullen, Samuel Morse and John Metcalf.

About the year 1856 a law was passed that every town should have an "ordinary" or public house. The pioneer tavern keeper in Medfield was Joshua Fisher, who opened up for business where the home of Mrs. Margaret Hewins was afterward located. Samuel Sadey began to operate a public house on North Street, opposite the head of Dale Street; another was in the south part of town and first kept by Sabin Mann; another was started by Seth Clark; Moses Richardson also kept one in the east part of town. In 1810 David Fairbanks, a prominent business man of Medfield at this time, built a tavern on the site of the town hall and this was for fifty years the only public house in Medfield. The Wheelock estate was purchased by Fairbanks in order to begin this business.

The bi-centennial anniversary of the burning of Medfield by the Indians was celebrated February 26, 1876, with appropriate exercises. The day started by the ringing of bells and the firing of the national salute by a detachment from Battery B of the Massachusetts Artillery under Captain Baxter. The Medfield Band supplied music during the day. Addresses were delivered by Rev. C. C. Sewall, R. R. Bishop and a poem was read by James Hewins. The exercises were held at 10:30 A. M. in the town hall. In the afternoon the people reassembled and various activities consumed the remainder of the day.

On June 6, 1901 occurred the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Medfield. An appropriation of \$1,500 had been secured some months prior to the day for the proper conduct of the celebration. The day started in the usual patriotic manner and at 9 o'clock the grand procession was held, composed of the following: officers, committees, American Waltham Watch Company Band of twenty-two pieces, Moses Ellis Post, No. 117, G. A. R., Medfield Lodge No. 216, I. O. O. F., Medfield Lodge No. 40, A. O. U. W., Medfield Grange No. 114, P. of H., fire department, Women's Relief Corps, Hannah Adams Club, schools, trades, etc. Literary exercises were held at the First Congregational Church at 11 A. M., with the principal address by W. S. Tilden. At 1 o'clock a banquet was held in Chenery Hall, presided over by James Hewins. Sports and games were held at 2:30 P. M. and at 8 P. M. a concert was given by the band.

The Boston and Hartford turnpike was constructed in 1806. It was owned by numerous stockholders who eventually found it an unprofitable investment. A line of coaches was run through the town for the next thirty years and toll gates were erected at various points along the route.

The first guide boards in Medfield were erected in 1795. There were five of them and they were placed at the corners of the principal townways.

In a paper read by James Hewins before the Worcester Society of Antiquity and others at the annual field day at Medfield June 20, 1891, the writer brought forth the suggestion of naming the more prominent homes of the town after Indian characters who had historical connection with the town, either through the great Massasoit, in whose dominion the territory now in Medfield was situated at the time of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620, or through his son, Metacomet, otherwise known as King Philip. Many names were suggested by Mr. Hewins, the more prominent of which follow, also the name of the residence to bear

each: Akkompoin, Edwin V. Mitchell, North Street; Annawon, George L. Hurl, Canal Street; Ashamattan, W. S. Tilden, Spring Street; Mantowapuct, Almenia C. and Amelia F. Everett, Main Street; Mattatoag, M. F. Clark, South Street; Metacomet, Francis Hamant, South Street; Miantunnomoh, Samuel Ellis, North Street; Monoco, Ellen Curtis, North Street; Mooanum, W. R. Smith, South Street; Nanuntemoo, J. Henry Gould, Main Street; Petonowowett, George G. Babcock, South Street; Pokanoket, A. B. Parker, Main Street; Potok, T. L. Barney, Main Street; Pumham, J. Augustus Fitts, Main Street; Quadequin, James Hewins, Main Street; Quanapohit, J. H. Richardson, North Street; Quin-napin, Wilmot W. Mitchell, Main Street; Quinobequin, G. R. Chase, Bridge Street; Sonkanuhoo, Henry M. Parker, Main Street; Sowampset, A. E. Mason, North Street; Tiashq, Albert A. Lovell, Railroad Street; Wampatuck, W. P. Hewins, Main Street; Watuspaquin, Hamlet Wight, North Street; Wawaloam, Stillman J. Spear, North Street; Weecum, William Marshall, Main Street; Weet-amoo, George H. Smith, Main Street; Woosamequin, Elizabeth S., Alice O. and Edward U. Sewall, Main Street; Wootonekanuske, J. B. Hale, South Street; Joseph A. Allen retained his name of Castle Hill.

## CHAPTER XXI

### THE TOWN OF MEDWAY

ORIGINAL OWNERSHIP—FIRST GRANT OF LAND—THE FIRST ACTUAL SETTLER—THE  
STONE HOUSE—FIRST LOTS LAID OUT—THE NEW GRANT—DIVISION OF LOTS—  
MEETING HOUSE STRIFE—INCORPORATION—THE NAME—THE ORIGINAL  
FOUNDERS—POPULATION—FIRST TOWN MEETING—HIGHWAYS—POSTOFFICES—  
MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT—CEMETERIES—ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The town of Medway lies in the western portion of the county of Norfolk and is bounded in the following manner: on the north by Middlesex County; on the west by Worcester County; on the south by the towns of Bellingham and Franklin; and on the east by the town of Millis. The territory of Medway presents an undulating surface, well watered by the Charles River and some of its tributaries. The uplands of this town once became notable as fine meadow lands, a fact which aided in the first settlement of the town. Part of the town is hilly, but not in sufficient area to destroy the value of the land.

#### ORIGINAL OWNERSHIP

The territory now comprising the town of Medway originally belonged to the territory claimed by the Nipmuck Indians, once a very powerful tribe. Prior to King Philip's war this tribe became divided, one of the principal branches being the Natick. The negotiations with these Indians relative to the country in this vicinity were carried on mostly by the settlers of Medfield, a description of which is given in the chapter on that town. In addition, the early legal transactions of the Town of Medfield will answer for the earliest government of Medway, as the latter town was largely contained in Medfield when set aside from Dedham.

#### FIRST GRANT OF LAND

In the year 1643 the General Court of Massachusetts Bay granted to the Rev. John Allin 200 acres of wild land in the forest beyond the west bounds of Dedham. This is probably the first grant, at least the first recorded, in the territory which later was to become the Town of Medway. Reverend Allin, according to history, never occupied his land in person.

In 1649 Captain Robert Keaine (also spelled Kayne, Kaine and Keane), of Boston, received a grant of 1,074 acres to the north of the Allin farm. The line between Medfield and Sherborn afterwards drawn corresponded very nearly with the line between these two grants.

About the same time thirty-three acres of land were laid out "before Bridge Street." These seven lots were bounded on the east by the river and formed a

tract later crossed by the turnpike. The first land on the west side of the river to be divided among the citizens of Medfield was the part known as the "broad meadows." In 1653 Abraham Harding and Peter Adams had grants in Grape Meadow, east of the Black Swamp. In 1655 grants were also made to Benjamin Alby and Alexander Lovell.

#### THE FIRST ACTUAL SETTLER

The first actual settler within the territory afterwards included in the Town of Medway was George Fairbanks. He came about the year 1657, although this date, as well as his birth and parentage, is buried in obscurity. The year 1657 is approximated only. Fairbanks was married on August 26, 1646 to Mary A. Harris in Dedham, raised a family of five children, and died January 10, 1682. On February 6, 1660, the Town of Medfield granted to Fairbanks "such timber for fencing as shall make 300 rails, with posts for it, as shall be set out by brother Wight and John Metcalf shall appoint him with what he has already fallen to make up 300 rails." This is the first mention of him in the town records. Fairbanks was not associated with the settlement of Medfield Plain, but purchased the land which in 1643 had been granted to Reverend Allin by the General Court. So he held his land by purchase and not by town grant. His dwelling was the noted "stone house" near the north border of the pond. The location of his farm prevented Fairbanks from being listed as one of the Medfield proprietors in the division of the New Grant. In fact, his political and social activities were almost wholly confined to the town of Sherborn, where he once served as selectman. For at least seven generations the original farm remained in the hands of and was cultivated by Fairbanks' descendants. In 1660 it is recorded that his nearest neighbors were "Nicholas Woods, Daniel Morse, Henry Lealand, Thomas Holbrook and Thomas Bass."

In 1652 Nicholas Woods and Thomas Holbrook, both from Dorchester, settled on the west side of the river, between Death's Bridge and Holbrook's Mills. They were located one-half mile from each other, were beyond any town and were four miles from any English neighbors. In the same year, or soon afterward, Hopestill Lealand, seventy years of age, with his son Henry, came here from Dorchester. In 1658 John Hill and Thomas Breck located to the southwest of the above named, one-third of a mile north of Boggestow Pond. They were also from Dorchester. By marriage most of these men soon became related, forming a large family community. Thomas Bass appeared in the vicinity about 1660 and married Woods' daughter. It is probable that Benjamin Bullard resided nearby at this time.

Joseph Daniel was the second actual settler within the bounds of Medway. He was the son of Robert Daniel, of Cambridge or Watertown. He first became identified with Medfield, becoming a townsman there in 1662. His marriage to Mary Fairbanks on November 16, 1665, was the first in Medway, although that of Jonathan Adams and Elizabeth Fussell occurred the same year.

Prior to the year 1660 George Fairbanks was the only settler west of the river in what later was set off as the Town of Medway. John Fussell and his son-in-law, Jonathan Adams, were early settlers on the west side. William Allin probably located here about 1668, when he married Elizabeth Twitchell, daughter

of Benjamin Twitchell. Allin died in 1736, when over ninety years of age. Before 1669 Peter Calley located near the Boggestow Pond. At the time of the burning of Medfield Abraham Harding was constructing his house in Medway territory. Josiah Rockwood in 1677 settled on the place later known as the Oak Grove farm. John Rockwood built his house here about the same time. John Richardson is first mentioned in the records of the town in 1678. Before 1680 Peter Adams probably had settled on the west side of the Charles. In his house the first public worship after the incorporation of Medfield was held. Samuel Daniel, brother of Joseph Daniel, settled in 1680 and after his death fifteen years later the farm was sold to Jasper Adams. Vincent Shuttleworth came to the territory in 1681. He was a deserter during the Indian wars and for the offense was fined a sum of £5; later, however, he further proved his worthlessness by becoming the first pauper of Medfield. John Partridge, John Adams and John Clark came in 1681. Samuel Hill appeared about 1693.

The tax list for the year 1693 gives the names of the following men then living in Medfield west of the river: John Adams, Jonathan Adams, Sr., Jonathan Adams, Jr., Peter Adams, John Clark, Joseph Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Jr., John Ellis, George Fairbanks, Jonathan Fisher, Abraham Harding, Samuel Hill, John Partridge, John Richardson, John Rockett and Josiah Rockett.

#### THE STONE HOUSE

During the early days of settlement in the town of Medfield west of the river, later included in Medway, the settlers were compelled to devise some means for protection. The Indians were hostile and were burning, killing and pillaging throughout the neighborhood, so it became necessary for the men to act quickly in order to safeguard their families from destruction. Accordingly, a stone garrison house was constructed on the north side of Boggestow Pond. This stone block-house, or fort, was about sixty-five feet long and two stories in height, and was built of flat stones carried to the site. The house was lined with heavy white pine planking and a double row of loop-holes were cut clear around the four sides. The single door at the south end, facing the pond, served as an entrance and window. Here one could enter without over exposure to the enemy were he nearby. The upper story was arranged for the women's quarters, with a small sick room at one end.

It is known with certainty that George Fairbanks used this stone house as a residence. The precaution of the settlers proved to be very fortunate, for on several occasions the stone house was subjected to siege by the Indians, every time without success. The bullets were easily turned aside by the thick stone walls and the white men's fire in return prevented the enemy from venturing near.

#### FIRST LOTS LAID OUT

Late in the year 1658 the town of Medfield voted to lay out certain uplands on the west side. These lands are described in the town records by the following sentences: "On the long plain to begin next to Boggestow River on that end." "At the further corner of our bounds by Charles River to begin next to the town." "In pine valley to begin at the north end and go through it." "At the end of pine valley on a parcel of land that the path goes through."

In the spring of 1659 fifteen lots were granted, in all one hundred and eighty acres. A highway was projected on the east side of the lots, running north and south. The lots were bounded on the east and west sides by waste lands and were taken up, beginning at Boggestow Brook, in the following order :

	acres
Benjamin Alby .....	15
Heirs of Joseph Morse .....	15
Thomas Wight, Sr. ....	15
John Thurston .....	10
Samuel Bullen .....	13
Peter Adams .....	10
Nicholas Rockwood .....	11
Thomas Wight, Jr. ....	6
John Frairy, Sr. ....	14
Robert Hinsdale .....	9
Joshua Fisher .....	15
Thomas Thurston .....	11
Thomas Ellis .....	9
Mr. Wilson .....	13
James Allen .....	7

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About the only one of the above men who became an inhabitant of the territory so set aside was Nicholas Rockwood, who, in his old age, came to live with his son John. The land was taken by the men from Medfield principally to provide homes for their sons, a few of whom later profited by their fathers' wisdom.

#### THE NEW GRANT

In the records of the town of Medfield occurs the following: "The Eleventh of May one Thousand six hundred fifty-nine, in answer to a petition of the town of Medfield presented to the General Court was granted by the court to the town of Medfield an addition of land at the west end of their former grant, as the record of the court will make appear."

In the Colonial Record for May, 1659, appears the following: "In answer to a petition of the inhabitants of Medfield, the court judgeth it meet to grant unto them as an addition to their former bounds and at the west end thereof two miles east and west and four miles north and south, provideth it entrench not upon any former grants, and that Captain Lusher and Lieutenant Fisher are hereby appointed to lay it out."

At the next annual town meeting of Medfield, February 6, 1660, the following vote was passed by those assembled: "It is ordered that the new grant made to the town this year by the court shall be divided by way of dividend to all the inhabitants of the town that are proprietors in the town and that it shall be divided by the common rules of division by number of persons and estates."

Each member of the family equaled ten pounds of estate in the partition of the

land. At a later town meeting, April 20, 1660, two highways were ordered to be laid through the new grant, one a half mile north of the Charles River from east to west and the other through "the midst of the tract of land from the way that runs west to a line to the north end of the same." These roadways divided the grant into three separate sections, known as the River, East and West Sections. The River Section was divided into twelve lots, including an area of 1,079 acres. The West Section was divided into nineteen lots, embracing 1,096 acres. The East Section was divided into sixteen lots, covering 1,658 acres. There were about 200 acres in the northeast corner of the grant which were undivided. The total cost of laying out this new grant was £19 6s. 5d.

## DIVISION OF LOTS

The following table will show the names of those who received lots in the new grant, the order in which they received them and the amount of land in each:

## River Section

	acres
Ralph Wheelock .....	156
John Metcalf .....	117
Robert Mason .....	57
John Pratt .....	39
Widow Sheppard .....	51
Thomas Wight, Jr. ....	56
Timothy Dwight .....	146
John Turner .....	120
Alexander Lovell .....	94
John Ellis .....	126
James Allen .....	102
Joseph Thurston .....	15

## West Section

	acres
Heirs of Joseph Morse .....	141
Henry Smith .....	158
John Bullard .....	100
Sampson Frairy .....	68
Edward Adams .....	102
John Fussell .....	24
William Partridge .....	61
Jonathan Adams .....	84
Daniel Morse .....	12
John Plimpton .....	107
Isaac Chenery .....	77
Joseph Clark .....	161
Robert Hinsdale .....	157
John Fisher .....	61

Nicholas Rockwood .....	85
Samuel Bullen .....	136
Abiel Wight .....	38
John Frairy, Jr. ....	177
Mr. Wilson .....	147

East Section

	acres
Gershom Wheelock .....	36
Joshua Fisher .....	78
Benjamin Alby .....	138
John Frairy, Sr. ....	147
Henry Adams .....	148
Thomas Wight, Sr. ....	166
Thomas Mason .....	73
Francis Hamant .....	87
John Partridge .....	69
John Warfield .....	22
Thomas Ellis .....	77
John Bowers .....	102
Thomas Thurston .....	72
John Thurston .....	191
Peter Adams .....	101
George Barber .....	149

Under the date of March, 1702, the Black Swamp, so called from the forest of pines covering the area, was ordered to be laid out into lots. The record is: "Voted, that the Black Swamp shall be laid out with such necks of uplands and ilands as shall make it formable by our former rules of laying out lands." There were one hundred and twenty-three landed proprietors listed, the following twenty-seven of whom were residents on the west side of the river: Jasper Adams, John Adams, Jonathan Adams, Jr., Peter Adams, Benjamin Allen, William Allen, John Clarke, Theophilus Clark, Timothy Clark, Ebenezer Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Jr., John Ellis, Sr., George Fairbanks, Jonathan Fisher, Henry Guernsey, Abraham Harding, Samuel Hill, John Partridge, Samuel Partridge, Widow Rebecca Richardson, John Richardson, John Rockwood, Josiah Rockwood, Vincent Shuttleworth and Ebenezer Thompson.

MEETING HOUSE STRIFE

During the following decade or so there was a strong increase in the population on the west side of the river. The people at length became desirous of obtaining a separate meeting house for the west side of the river and so petitioned the Town of Medfield on May 7, 1712, for this privilege. Their petition was unsuccessful, so later the matter was carried to the General Court. This last petition was opposed vigorously, but met with colonial favor, and the General Court "recommended to the town of Medfield to raise money towards the building of another meeting house on the west side of the Charles River." This was opposed

by a vote of the town and March 9, 1713, "voted that the town shall petition the General Court, declaring their inability to build another meeting house in the town and to bare the charge attending it."

## INCORPORATION

The General Court finally despatched a committee to look over the ground, with the view of establishing a new town west of the Charles River. This committee handed in a favorable report after their investigations. Judge Sewall wrote that he "helped the selectmen prepare the bill for Medway, the new town on the west of Charles River." The act was passed the next day, October 25, 1713. Medway, in the order of incorporations, was the sixty-ninth town in the Massachusetts Colony. The Act of Incorporation itself, which is still preserved, reads as follows:

"ANNO REGNI ANNAE REGINAE DUODECIM

*"An Act for Dividing of the Township of Medfield and erecting a new Town there by the name of Medway.*

"Whereas the lands of the township of Medfield within the county of Suffolk are situated on the Charles River, to wit, on both sides of the said river, being divided by the same: and the town plat and principal settlement, as also the meeting house for the public worship of God, being seated on the east side for the accomadation of the first and ancient inhabitants, who are now much increased, many issued forth and settled on the west side of the river to a competent number for a distinct town of themselves, and labor under many hardships and difficulties by reason of separation by the river to enjoy equal benefit and town privileges with others of their fellow townsmen and neighbors, and have therefore made application to the town as also addressed this court to be made a distinct town. Committees appointed by this court having been upon the ground, viewed the land and reported in their favor for proper bounds to be set them.

*"Be it Enacted by his Excellency the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the Same:*

"That all those lands lying on the west side of the Charles River, now part of the township of Medfield, be erected and made into a distinct and separate town by the name of Medway, the river to be the bound betwixt the two towns. And that the inhabitants of Medway have, use and exercise and enjoy all such power and privileges which other towns have, so by law use, exercise and enjoy. So that they procure and settle a learned, orthodox minister of good conversation among them and make provision for an honorable support and maintenance for him, and that in order thereto, they be discharged from further payment to the ministry in Medfield from and after the last day of February next.

"Provided also that all province and town taxes that are already levied, or granted, be collected and paid, and all town rights and common undivided lands remain to be divided among the interested as if no separation had been made.

"And Mr. George Fairbanks, a principal inhabitant of the said town of Medway, is hereby directed and empowered to notify and summon the inhabitants

duly qualified for voters to assemble and meet together for the choosing of town officers to stand until the next annual election according to law.

“A true copy—examined.

“JSA. ADDINGTON, Sec’y.”

The first board of selectmen consisted of Samuel Partridge, Jonathan Adams, Sr., Jonathan Adams, Jr., Edward Clark and John Rockett, the latter also acting as the first clerk of the town.

THE NAME

Like many of the other towns in Norfolk County there are several reasons advanced for the naming of the town. Some traditional records have given the reason for the name Medway as the location of the town, lying midway between the meadow lands as it did. Another is that Medway was the half way stopping point on the old post road from Dedham to Mendon. Other authorities have placed the origin of the name as the Medway River in England.

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDERS

There were forty-eight men who were credited with the honor of being the founders of the town of Medway. The names of these men follow: Daniel Adams, Jasper Adams, John Adams, Jonathan Adams, Jonathan Adams, Jr.; Joseph Adams, Obadiah Adams, Peter Adams, James Allen, William Allen, John Barber, Joseph Barber, John Bullard, Malachi Bullard, William Burgess, Theophilus Clark, Timothy Clark, Edward Clark, Joseph Curtis, Ebenezer Daniel, Jeremiah Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Joseph Daniel, Jr., Samuel Daniel, John Ellis, Joseph Ellis, George Fairbanks, Henry Guernsey, Abraham Harding, Abraham Harding, Jr., John Harding, Thomas Harding, Samuel Hill, Samuel Hill, Jr., Ephraim Hill, Michael Metcalf, Samuel Metcalf, Benoni Partridge, John Partridge, Jonathan Partridge, Samuel Partridge, Daniel Richardson, John Richardson, John Rockwood, Josiah Rockwood, Ebenezer Thompson, Nathaniel Whiting and Nathaniel Wight.

POPULATION

It is probable that at the time of incorporation the Town of Medway had a population of nearly 300 people. The first census taken, in the year 1765, gave the number of people as 785, including 380 males, 388 females and 17 negroes. By this same census there were 123 houses in the town. From that time until the present the different census figures have been as follows:

1776	(Prov.)	912
1790	(U. S.)	1,035
1800	(U. S.)	1,050
1810	(U. S.)	1,213
1820	(U. S.)	1,523
1830	(U. S.)	1,756
1840	(U. S.)	2,043

1850	(U. S.)	2,778
1855	(State)	3,230
1860	(U. S.)	3,195
1865	(State)	3,219
1870	(U. S.)	3,721
1875	(State)	4,242
1880	(U. S.)	3,956
1885	(State)	2,777
1890	(U. S.)	2,985
1895	(State)	2,913
1900	(U. S.)	2,761
1905	(State)	2,650
1910	(U. S.)	2,696
1915	(State)	2,846

The total assessed valuation of property in Medway for the year 1915 was \$1,834,260.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

The first town meeting of Medway was held on November 23, 1713. The principal object of the meeting was to choose officers to serve until the following annual election. After making a choice for selectmen, town clerk and constable, matters relative to the meeting house were discussed and voted upon. The record states this as follows:

"Voted, That John Rockett and Jonathan Adams, Sr., Serg. Samuel Partridge and Serg. Jonathan Adams and Edward Clark to be a committee to take care to procure the meeting house built.

"Voted, that Abraham Harding, Sr., John Partridge and Theophilus Clark to procure and carry in a petition to the town clerk of Medfield in order to the procuring of accomadations for the setting of the meeting house upon the place commonly called bare hills, and some convenient accomadations for the minister thereabouts."

The above is an example of the character of the town records for the first half century of the town's existence. Church matters formed the principal business during this time.

For the first thirteen years of municipal life the town was not represented in the Provincial Court. The town had taken a vote on December 3, 1713, "to send none, accounting ourselves not obliged to send any." This rule was followed until 1726, when the town named Jonathan Adams as the first representative to the General Court.

#### HIGHWAYS

When the grants of land were made out to the citizens of Medfield interested in the settlement of the new territory, various roads were laid out in order to make the land easily accessible. In 1652-3 a road one rod and a half in width was laid out from the entrance of Broad Meadows at the south and running through the whole to the north end. In 1660, as mentioned before, two highways

were ordered to be laid out through the new grant, dividing the same into three sections. The first lot, obtained by Ralph Wheelock, was located just where the village of Medway now stands. The records of the town, under date of April 13, 1661, state:

"Whereas the way leading through the new grant from east to west is found not passable nor capable of being made so, it is therefore agreed on, and also laid out by the men that were deputed thereunto that the way is to assent (ascend) the hill by the river and thence to cross the lot of Mr. Ralph Wheelock to the side line of John Metcalf, by a little pine standing on a stony ridge and so to turn down by John Metcalf's side line to the other way at the head of his lot, which is a matter of forty rods and to be four rods wide." At this time there was no road from the Great Bridge westward, except that which is described as "the path up into the wilderness," which had been surveyed as a highway, part of it being across Wheelock's lot.

The first road laid out after the incorporation of the town is recorded in the following manner:

"June 4, 1715. The selectmen met at the house of Nathaniel Wight to lay out highways for the benefit of this town, and for the convenience of travelers to pass from town to town as follows: begin in the country road that leads to Mendon near twenty rods east from Nat Wight's, upon a straight line across part of the plain known by the name of Stony Plain, and cross a swamp place commonly called Paradise Island, and by the southeast side of Ebenezer Thompson's field on to bare hill along at the southwest end of the meeting house to the laid out highway through the plain commonly known by the name of hills."

The old Mendon road from east to west was laid out in 1670. This was afterward the county road, along which Washington rode on his way to Cambridge to take command of the American Army in 1775. It is also said that while passing through this town he stopped at Richardson's Hotel in the east parish to dine.

By an act of incorporation, passed March 9, 1804, the Hartford and Dedham Turnpike Corporation was established. A turnpike was constructed through the town from east to west, called the Hartford turnpike. The road was opened for travel in 1807 and toll gates built. One was built near the old Hammond Place, now marked by the railroad crossing in Millis. Tolls were collected for a score of years.

The Medford turnpike was laid out and established as a public highway June 4, 1838, and received the name of Main Street. It extended from Medfield to Bellingham. The old county road, the oldest highway in the town at present, was given the name of Village Street.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in the town was established at Medway Village in the spring of 1803. Capt. William Felt was appointed the first postmaster. His first quarterly return was made July 1, 1803, Gideon Granger being postmaster-general. The office was kept in the store of Captain Felt and the mail was carried by a post rider who went over the route once each week. The office was afterward transferred to Sanford Hall.

The second postoffice in the town was established in East Medway (now Millis) March 17, 1819. Timothy Hammond was appointed the first postmaster. At first the office was kept at the house of Adam Bullard.

The third postoffice was established September 19, 1834, in West Medway. Olney Foristall was the first postmaster here.

The fourth postoffice in the town was established February 23, 1838, in Rockville. Deacon Timothy Walker was appointed the first postmaster here.

#### MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT

From the unimproved lands, ungraded roadways and unsatisfactory buildings of the early times the town of Medway has developed into a community of modern things, including improved and level roads, well kept estates, excellent business blocks and beautiful residences. In scenic beauty Medway is in the first rank of Norfolk County towns. Like the neighboring town of Medfield the foresight of past generations in matters such as tree planting has been of great benefit to the present generation. Water works, electricity and adequate sewerage are but a few of the municipal improvements added to Medway within the last forty years.

Sanford Hall in the village of Medway was erected in the year 1872 at a cost of about \$16,000. It was dedicated December 31, 1872, and named for the largest donor to the building fund, Milton A. Sanford, of New York, who was born in Medway. Theodore W. Fisher, M. D., of Boston, gave an historical address on the occasion and Rev. R. K. Harlow made the address of dedication.

Partridge Hall in Millis (then East Medway) was erected in 1876. The building of this hall was largely through the efforts and material aid of the family whose name it bears today.

Another feature of the town of Medway is the library known as the Dean Public Library, which was founded by Dr. Oliver Dean and incorporated March 3, 1860. The East Medway Circulating Library was established about forty years ago.

#### CEMETERIES

On March 4, 1700, the town of Medfield voted that "the inhabitants on the west side of the Charles River shall have two acres of land for a burying place, where they and a committee chosen by the selectmen for that end shall order it in any of the town commons there." This ground, according to the available records, was not laid out until the town was incorporated, but burials were made in Medfield and in the southern part of Sherborn. The voters of Medway met at the house of Peter Adams, October 29, 1714, and a vote passed to locate a burying ground on Bare Hill, within forty rods of the meeting house. A committee was appointed, consisting of George Fairbanks, Zachariah Partridge and John Richardson, to confer with the committee from Medfield upon the question of laying out this cemetery. This cemetery was the first and for many years the only one in the town of Medway.

The second cemetery laid out was in the west precinct, about the time of the erection of the first church in 1750. Oakland Cemetery, near Medway, was the third burying ground in the town. This ground was consecrated June 20, 1865.

It may be said here that the first burial in Oakland Cemetery was that of Mrs. Mary Darling, who died October 26, 1865, at the age of one hundred and two years.

The Catholic Cemetery was located in 1876 a short distance from Oakland.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

Wild animals in the earliest days of settlement were a source of constant annoyance to the settlers. In 1730, in the vicinity of Winthrop Pond, bears became troublesome and many hunting parties were organized to search for them. The records show that in 1737 Seth Harding was paid one pound for killing a wild cat. In 1742 £19 11s 6d were ordered to be paid for the slaughter of 817 squirrels and 684 blackbirds. The last deer killed in the vicinity was in 1747 and the last panther was seen about 1790.

Among the notable men who have been attributed to Medway was William T. Adams, author, known by his nom de plume of "Oliver Optic." Oliver Optic was born July 30, 1822. He became noted during his productive period as a writer of juvenile literature, many of his works now being considered classics in that particular style of authorship.

On March 3, 1792 the bounds between Medway and Sherborn were established. On June 25, 1792, a part of Medway was annexed to the town of Franklin. The bounds between the latter two towns were fixed on November 13th of the same year. On March 3, 1829, the bounds between Medway and Holliston were established and a part of each town was annexed to the other town. Bounds were again established between Medway and Franklin on February 23, 1832, and on March 13, 1839, part of Franklin was annexed to Medway. On February 23, 1870, part was set off to Norfolk, and on February 24, 1885, the eastern part was incorporated as the Town of Millis.

The records of the town contain many significant items during the time of the tea tax, which resulted in the Boston Tea Party. In March, 1770, the town voted that the inhabitants "will forbear the purchasing of tea and wholly restrain themselves from the use of it, upon which there is a duty laid by the Parliament of Great Britain and also that they will forbear the purchasing of any goods knowingly, directly or indirectly of any importer—until the revenue acts shall be repealed." In December, 1773, the selectmen were ordered to grant no favors or privileges to "inn-holders and retailers of strong liquors in this town from all such persons that shall buy, use and consume any tea in their homes while subject to duties." Throughout the records there are many other items which prove the patriotism and loyalty of the town of Medway. The use of His Majesty's name was first abolished from the town records in March, 1776.

The tax list for 1783 contained the names of 216 residents and 98 non-residents. The poll tax at this time was 2s 6d. The principal taxpayers were: Asa P. Richardson, £1 2s 9d; Capt. Joseph Lovell, £1 3s 8d; and Nathaniel Lovell, £1 8d. In 1795 Federal money first came into use and the town finances were recorded in dollars, cents and mills for the first time.

## CHAPTER XXII

### THE TOWN OF MILLIS

LOCATION—BOUNDARIES—SURFACE AND DRAINAGE—FIRST SETTLEMENT—DIVISION OF MEDWAY—THE TOWN NAME—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—GENERAL CONDITIONS IN 1917—TOWN OFFICERS.

The Town of Millis is located in the western part of Norfolk County. It is bounded on the north by the Town of Sherborn, Middlesex County; on the east by Medfield; on the south by Norfolk; on the west by Medway, and the Town of Holliston, Middlesex County, forms a little of the boundary on the northwest. The Charles River runs along the southern and eastern borders, separating Millis from the towns of Norfolk and Medfield. In the northern part is Boggestow Brook, which flows in a general easterly direction to the Charles River, draining two or three ponds of considerable size on its course. There are some hills in Millis, but they are not so high nor so picturesque as those of some of the adjacent towns, and between the hills are fertile valleys that are well adapted to the pursuit of agriculture.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT

The territory now comprising the Town of Millis was originally a part of Dedham. When Medfield was incorporated by act of the General Court on May 22, 1650, it included practically all of Millis. The first settlements were therefore made in this part of Norfolk County long before the Town of Millis was even dreamed of by the inhabitants. Among the pioneers were George Fairbanks, Nicholas Woods, Daniel Morse, Thomas Holbrook, Thomas Bass, Joseph Daniel, John Fussell, Jonathan Adams, Peter Calley, Josiah Rockwood and some others, all of whom are mentioned more in detail in the chapter devoted to the Town of Medway, of which Millis was a part for nearly one and three-quarters centuries.

#### DIVISION OF MEDWAY

For many years the Town of Medway was divided into three communities, socially and in a business way, though the people lived under the same town government without friction, attending the town meetings and voting upon all questions affecting the common welfare. Under the conditions, however, it was natural that some of the citizens should become somewhat dissatisfied, and in 1884 the dissatisfaction of those living in the eastern part of the town found expression in the following petition for division:

"To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

"The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Medway, respectfully represent that the interests and convenience of a large number of the citizens of said town would be promoted by the incorporation of the easterly part of said town into a new town; wherefore, the undersigned respectfully petition that all the territory within said town comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at a stone bound at an angle in the boundary line between the towns of Medway and Holliston about sixty rods distant from Orchard Street and near the 'Nathan Plympton place,' so called; thence southerly in a straight line to the southeasterly corner of Farm and Village streets; thence continuing in the same course to the bank of the Charles River; thence following the present boundary lines between the Town of Medway and the towns of Norfolk, Medfield, Sherborn and Holliston to the above mentioned stone bound, the place of beginning, may be set off and incorporated into a town by the name of 'Millis.'"

This petition was signed by E. S. Fuller, E. L. Holbrook, G. F. Holbrook, Elbridge Clark, E. O. Jameson, John Bullard, Timothy Bullard, Frank E. Cook, Israel D. Fuller, Edwin Metcalf, Austin Metcalf, Lansing Millis, "and 125 others."

When it was learned by the people living in the central and western portions of the town that this movement was on foot, they circulated a counter petition, which was also addressed to the Legislature, and which was as follows:

"The undersigned, legal voters of the Town of Medway, in said Commonwealth, in view of the possible division of the town, upon petition to be presented to your Honorable Body of citizens of East Medway, so called, respectfully represent that the population of the Town of Medway is substantially divided into three distinct communities in all their social and business relations, and your petitioners, therefore, respectfully pray that the town may be divided into three corporate and distinct towns, upon lines of division substantially in accordance with such as have for many years marked their social and business interests, to wit:

"That East Medway be incorporated as prayed for in the petition referred to, embracing the territory of Medway westward to a line from a point on the Charles River extending northerly to the boundary of Holliston.

"That West Medway, so called, include the territory of Medway extending eastward to a line commencing at a point on said Charles River at or near the junction with said river on the Lone Star Brook from Franklin; thence northerly crossing Village and Main streets to Hill Street at the Holliston boundary line, near the house of John Sullivan, in nearly a straight course.

"And that Medway proper remain constituted with the territory and population lying between and residing upon the same between the two lines as previously described and as will more fully appear by a plan of the same to be submitted to your Honorable Body. And in duty bound will ever pray."

This petition, dated "Medway, October 20, 1884," was signed by M. M. Fisher, E. A. Daniels, Jesse K. Snow, Edward Fennessy, James O'Donnell, E. C. Wilson, W. H. Carey, Clark Partridge, C. S. Philbrick, Henry S. Partridge, "and 193 others." Notwithstanding the fact that it bore a much larger number of signatures, the petitioners for the Town of Millis remained steadfast in their work. Their petition was published in four successive issues of the "Medway Magnet,"

was sworn to before William A. Wyckoff, a justice of the peace, on December 2, 1884, and was immediately afterward filed in the office of the secretary of state. In due time it came before the Legislature, which evidently took the view that it would be impracticable to divide the Town of Medway into three towns, for on February 10, 1885, a bill was introduced in the senate providing for the incorporation of the Town of Millis, upon the boundaries asked for by the petitioners. Two days later it passed the senate and was sent to the house, where it passed the final stages on the 19th and was approved by the governor on the 24th. Millis therefore dates its corporate existence from February 24, 1885.

#### THE TOWN NAME

The town takes its name from the Millis family, members of which were influential in securing its incorporation. The Boston & Woonsocket division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad runs through the town, and after it was organized the name of East Medway was changed to Millis. Henry L. Millis was particularly active in promoting the fortunes of the new town.

#### TOWN HALL

A short distance northeast of Millis, which is the municipal center of the town, is the railroad station of Clicquot. Not long after the town was incorporated, Henry L. Millis made an arrangement with the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company to erect a building, the lower story of which should be used for railroad purposes and the upper story for a town hall and public library. Mr. Millis then conceived the idea of communicating with all natives or former residents and asking each one to contribute a stone for the building. The result was that quite a number responded to his request, and the walls of the town hall and railroad station are constructed of boulders from almost every state in the Union. Some of the stones bear suitable inscriptions, showing from whence they came and who were their donors. The boulders of different hues and texture give the building a unique appearance rarely to be found in a public edifice. The hall is centrally located and the town's portion of the structure was donated by Mr. Millis.

#### WATERWORKS

The Millis waterworks, now the property of the town, were also built by Henry L. Millis, but were sold to the town some years later, a bond issue of \$30,000 being authorized to pay for them. Since the purchase by the town the mains have been extended in several districts, at a cost of \$24,380. The principal of these extensions is that to Rockville, where a standpipe was erected, the total cost of the improvement being \$16,500. Regarding the matter of extensions, at a town meeting held on February 14, 1916, it was voted: "That the water commissioners, with three others nominated from the floor, investigate and report at the next town meeting rules to govern all extensions of water pipes in the Town of Millis."

The three men appointed to act with the commissioners were Harold P. Wil-

liams, Osgood T. Dean and Frank S. Hoff. On March 31, 1916, the committee made a report to a town meeting, a portion of which report was as follows: "The committee believes that property owners who own property outside of the so-called water district should be afforded the privilege of obtaining Town water on a reasonable basis. At the same time the committee realizes that in most cases the cost of extending the water system to outlying properties is disproportionate to the income derived from the use of the water, and is greatly in excess of installing the water supply within said water district.

"It seems reasonable, therefore, to the committee, that property owners who desire an extension of the water system for their benefit outside of this water district should pay for a reasonable period a sum in excess of that charged to takers within said water district. The committee feels that if an annual sum, equal to six per cent of the cost of extending the system, is paid by the takers for a period of ten years from the time of installation, this sum would pay for the water used during the same period and would also reimburse the town to some extent for interest paid on moneys expended in making such extension.

As it is the belief of the committee that this six per cent guaranteed payment will, to some extent, recompense the town for the expense of extension of its water system, the committee recommends that, where there is more than one taker of water on any extension, all of the takers on such extension shall jointly pay a sum equal to six per cent of the investment of the town in the extension, and if the quantity of water taken on any extension is sufficient, if paid for at the regular water rate, to pay the town a sum equal to said six per cent on its investment, that all water taken above such quantity shall be paid for at the regular water rates; it being the belief of the committee that the town should in any event receive a sum equal to six per cent, and as much more as the quantity of water used would enable it to receive, charging for said water at the regular rate."

In connection with the purchase of the waterworks by the town, it is worthy of note that a sinking fund was established for the redemption of the bonds when they fall due in 1925. As the sinking fund accumulated, it was loaned to the town. At the close of the year 1916 the town was the borrower of \$12,180 of this fund. Thus the town is paying itself interest upon its own money, an arrangement which is regarded as being much better than paying interest to outside money lenders. The amount of water pumped in 1916 was 15,694,070 gallons, the receipts for which amounted to \$3,387.29.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Millis Fire Department is a volunteer organization. Part of the equipment originally was inherited from the old Town of Medway, when the property of that town was divided with Millis under the act of February 24, 1885. At the town meeting on February 14, 1916, a committee previously appointed to investigate the conditions of the Rockville Fire Company, reported in favor of the erection of a building for that company, "at a cost of \$700, as the town is paying fifty dollars rental for a building that is not fit for the purpose." The report was accepted and adopted, and the house was erected during the year.

In their annual report for the year 1916, the board of fire engineers, consisting

of Charles LaCroix, J. C. Thorne and Albion K. P. Barton, reported that the department had answered fourteen calls during the year. The appropriation for the support of the department for the year was \$1,000.

## FINANCIAL

In 1916 the valuation of the property, as fixed by the board of assessors, was \$1,556,872. According to the treasurer's report, the liabilities of the town on December 31, 1916, amounted to \$80,230. Of these liabilities the principal items were as follows:

Water bonds, due December 1, 1925.....	\$30,000
School bonds, due annually to 1933.....	17,850
Water Extension bonds.....	13,500
Sinking Fund notes.....	12,180
All other obligations.....	6,700

Total .....\$80,230

Millis has never been niggardly in the matter of public improvements, but from the time the town was organized in 1885 to the present day the people have exercised good judgment in making appropriations. The expenditures for the year 1916 were as follows:

Notes paid during the year.....	\$20,124.50
Schools .....	11,587.11
Streets and Highways.....	7,956.29
Interest on Town Debt.....	3,029.40
Poor Department .....	1,307.78
Moth Department .....	1,262.26
Fire Department .....	843.96
Incidentals (including salaries).....	2,817.04
All other expenditures .....	8,361.65

Total .....\$57,289.99

## GENERAL CONDITIONS IN 1917

In 1910 the United States census reported the population of Millis as 1,399, only two towns in the county (Dover and Norfolk) showing a smaller number of inhabitants. The state census of 1915 gave Millis a population of 1,442, a gain of only 43 in five years. Besides the division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad above mentioned, Millis is connected with Dedham on the east, and Milford on the west by an electric railway. Electric railways that connect with this line afford easy transportation to a number of the adjacent towns. The principal manufacturing concerns are a large boot and shoe factory and the Clicquot Club ginger ale works, one of the largest of the kind in the country. Near this factory the railroad company has established a station to which has been given the name of "Clicquot." Both station and factory are about half a mile northeast of the Village of Millis.

The principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917 were: Michael H. Clancy, Horace M. Cushman and George G. Hoff, selectmen; Louis LaCroix, clerk; Evan F. Richardson, treasurer; J. A. Cole, Frank S. Harding and Moses C. Adams, assessors; Ernest L. Hill, Herbert H. Thorne and Frank S. Harding, overseers of the poor; Charles LaCroix, George G. Hoff and Michael H. Clancy, water commissioners; J. Clarence Thorne, tax collector; Lawrence J. Reardon, auditor; Edward LaCroix, J. A. Cole and J. C. Thorne, school committee; Cornelius J. Erisman and William H. Thorne, constables.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### THE TOWN OF MILTON

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—TOPOGRAPHY—WHITE OCCUPATION—THE TOWN INCORPORATED—THE TOWN NAME—EARLY TAVERNS—TOWN HALL—POSTOFFICES—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—FINANCIAL HISTORY—A FEW FIRST THINGS—OLD FAMILIES—MILTON IN 1917—TOWN OFFICERS.

Milton, the sixth town to be incorporated within the present limits of Norfolk County, is situated northeast of the center of the county and extends northward to the Suffolk County line. It is bounded on the north by the City of Boston; on the east by Quincy; on the south and southwest by Randolph and Canton; and on the west by the Town of Hyde Park, which is now within the Boston city limits.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

Of all the towns of Norfolk County, Milton is preëminently the "town of hills." The Blue Hill range, composed of the highest elevations in Eastern Massachusetts, passes through the town. Except small patches, interspersed here and there among the hills, there is practically no level land. The soil of these small level tracts is a deep, heavy loam, quite fertile and productive. The Blue Hill Reservation, comprising the principal elevations of the Blue Hill range, has been set apart by the state as a tract for the recreation and edification of the people, and is under the control of the Metropolitan Park Commission.

The Neponset is the principal watercourse connected with the drainage system of the town. Its largest tributary in Milton is the Pine Tree Brook, which has its source in a pond fed by several small streams in the western part of the town. Its general course is easterly until it empties into the Neponset, not far from the Central Avenue bridge. Balster's and Cook's brooks flow into the Pine Tree Brook.

Unquaty or Gulliver's Brook rises near the Milton Cemetery and flows eastwardly to the harbor. It derives its name from Anthony Gulliver, who was born in England in 1619 and died in Milton in 1706. It is said that Dean Swift got the suggestion of his "Gulliver's Travels" from a member of this family. Jonathan Gulliver, a son of Anthony, was a member of the Massachusetts General Court in 1727.

Blue Hill River, a branch of the Monatiquot, a small, crooked stream, forms the boundary line between Milton and Randolph. On some maps this river is called the Monatiquot. It receives the waters of Silver Brook, which rises on the east side of the Great Blue Hill and flows in a southerly direction, draining Houghton's Pond in the course of its meanderings.

## WHITE OCCUPATION

In 1630 Gov. John Winthrop arrived in the Massachusetts Bay colony with the charter. During the next three years there was a heavy emigration from England to the New World. In 1633 the name of Israel Stoughton first appears in the Dorchester records as a grantee of lands lying within the present Town of Milton. For his residence tract he selected 101 acres on the south side of the Neponset River, described as the "Indian Fields." His tract included nearly the whole of Milton Hill, extending along the river from the lower falls to the bend where Briggs' shipyard was afterward located. In 1656 this land was sold by the heirs of Israel Stoughton to John Gill.

Associated with Mr. Stoughton (doubtless stockholders of the company before leaving England) were John Glover and William Hutchinson. Mr. Glover selected a tract of 180 acres directly south of Milton Hill, bordered on the north-west by the brook. His land was occupied by his agent or tenant, Nicholas Wood, until it was sold by the Glover heirs in 1654 to Robert Vose.

Mr. Hutchinson laid out a large tract, which included a portion of Milton, though the greater part of it was in Braintree. In 1656 his son, Capt. Edward Hutchinson, sold the land to Anthony Gulliver, Henry Crane and Stephen Kingsley.

In 1636 the Town of Dorchester obtained a grant of land which embraced nearly the entire present Town of Milton. At that time it was customary, in occupying a new territory, to obtain a release of the Indian title. Accordingly, on October 8, 1636, Chief Kitchamakin of the Massachusetts Indians, a brother of Chickatabot, granted and sold to Richard Collicott of Dorchester, "all that tract beyond the Mill within ye bounds of Dorchester for them and their heirs for ever—only reserving for my own use and for my men forty acres where I like best & in case I & they leave it the same alsoe to belong untoe Dorchester, giving some consideration for the paines Bestowed upon it," etc.

For this tract of land James M. Robbins, in an address delivered on the occasion of Milton's two hundredth anniversary, June 11, 1862, says Kitchamakin received "twenty-eight fathoms of wampum." He and his men continued to occupy the reservation until 1657, when they removed to the country about Ponkapog Pond, now in the Town of Canton.

An old map or plan of the purchase, made by John Oliver, shows the names of the landowners at the time it was prepared. The map bears no date, but as John Oliver died in 1646, it must have been made prior to that time. Upon it appear the names of Israel Stoughton, Richard Collicott, John Glover, William Hutchinson, John Holman, Robert Badcock, Nehemiah Bourne, William Daniels, Nicholas Ellen, Thomas Lewis, Anthony Newton, Andrew Pitcher, Bray Wilkins and William Salsbury.

Among these early settlers or landowners (a few of them did not occupy their holdings) the names of Richard Collicott and John Holman appear most frequently in the records, indicating that they were active in shaping the destinies of the new plantation. Collicott was "a licensed fur dealer," an occupation which brought him into intimate commercial relations with the Indians and doubtless explains why he was selected to negotiate the deal with the chief for possession of the land. He built his house on what is now Adams Street in 1634. It was of the style known as a "garrisoned house" and was used later by the

Town of Dorchester as a "guard house." Mr. Collicott served on the board of selectmen in Dorchester from 1637 to 1641; was a deputy to the General Court in 1637; was first sergeant of the Dorchester Artillery Company, and was otherwise prominent in town affairs. He died at Boston in 1686.

John Holman received a grant of 110 acres adjoining that of Collicott and settled there soon afterward, the property remaining in his family for nearly a century. He served several terms as one of Dorchester's selectmen; was one of the original members of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company"; ensign of the first Artillery Company of Dorchester, and identified with many of the early events in Milton. His death occurred in 1652.

#### THE TOWN INCORPORATED

For a little more than a quarter of a century after Dorchester received the grant of land south of the Neponset River and Mr. Collicott obtained the relinquishment of the Indian title, the region now embraced within the Town of Milton remained a part of Dorchester. By that time a number of families had gone into the new grant and developed farms, and in the autumn of 1661 a movement was started for the organization of a new town. It seems that Dorchester offered no opposition and the following petition was presented to the General Court:

"To the Hon<sup>d</sup> Gene<sup>l</sup> Court now assembled att Boston 7th May 1662: The humble petition of us who are Inhabitants of that parte of ye Towne of Dorchester which is sittuated on the south side of ye Naponsett River commonly called Unquatiquisset Humbly showeth that ffor as much as it hath pleased God for to cast the bounds of our habitations in ye more remote partes of Dorchester Town as that we stand in a more remote capacitie unto a constant & comfortable attendance upon such administrations as doe respect sivill and ecclesiasticall communion in ye sayde Towne of Dorchester.

"Yet notwithstanding ye difficulties & allmost impossibilityes of ye constant attendance of us & our families have compelled not only our selves but allsoe ye Towne of Dorchester to acknowledge some necessitie of providing & settling a public ministry amongst our selves. And to that Purpose ye Towne of Dorchester (divers years since) granted us Libertie by our own contribution to maintayne our own Ministry. But we finding by experience that the orderly managing of such an Affair as Settlement hath some dependence upon ye exercise of Sivill Power unto ye effectual exercise of Which (as to ye attaynement of such an end) we find our selves altogether out of a capacitie as now we stand therefore we have obtayned from ye Towne of Dorchester a second graunt libertie to become a Township of our selves—a coppie of which graunt we here withall present to the view of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Court.

"Our humble petition to this Hon<sup>ble</sup> Court therefore is that (If according to ye terms & tenor of this graunt you shall in your wisdom judge us capable of being a Township) you would please by your authoritie to confirm the sd graunt unto us. And it beeing a more than ordinarie juncture of affaires with us as to our present Settlement we doe allsoe humbly crave our freedom from country rates according to the accustomed graunt to new Plantations we beeing (by Reason of our slowness & ye strait limits of our place as unable ffor Publick Affayres as if we were a new Plantation).

"This our humble petition is—If it shall bee by this Honor<sup>d</sup> Court accepted wee hope wee shall doe what in us lyes to mannage affayres in our communitie according to the laws of God & this Goverment out present design beeing the promotion of ye Public weale which that it may bee the period of your Consultations. So pray your humble petitioners.

"STEPHEN KINGSLEY

"ROBERT VOSE

"JOHN GILL

"In the names of all ye rest of ye Inhabitants."

No time was lost by the Court in the consideration of the petition, for on the very day it was presented (May 7, 1662) the township was incorporated. The original petition in the state archives bears the indorsment: "The deputyes think-meet to graunt this petition, viz. so far as it concernes ye Township but do not think meet to exempt them from rates."

In merely granting the petition the town was left without a name. To rectify this oversight the following action was taken later by the Court: "There having been granted to the inhabitants of Unketyquisset within ye Township of Dorchester to become a Township of themselves upon motion of your inhabitants it is ordered that ye said Town shallbee called Milton."

Stephen Kingsley, whose name appears as the first of the signers of the petition, was ordained a ruling elder of the church in Braintree in 1653. About three years later, after he, Henry Crane and Anthony Gulliver had purchased the William Hutchinson grant, he removed to Unketyquisset, where it is stated he conducted the first religious services. He quickly became active in local affairs and drew up the petition which was signed by himself, Robert Vose and John Gill as a committee of the inhabitants, which petition resulted in the incorporation of the town as above noted.

#### THE TOWN NAME

The Indian name of the region now included in the Town of Milton was Unketyquisset (the name is spelled in various ways), but as that was too unwieldly the General Court adopted the name of Milton, at the request of the inhabitants. Three distinct theories as to the reason for the adoption of this name have been presented. The first says the town was named in honor of John Milton, the celebrated English poet, who in 1662 was at the zenith of his fame. The second says it was named from the old mill (Mill Town), which was erected by the inhabitants of Dorchester on the Neponset River in 1633. This was the first water-mill in New England. The third theory, which is perhaps the most plausible one, is that the town derived its name from Milton, England. There are, however, in England and Wales about twenty towns called Milton, or of which the word Milton forms some part of the name, and it is impossible to determine which one was copied in giving name to the Massachusetts town.

#### EARLY TAVERNS

Soon after the town was incorporated Roger Billings built a large house on what is now Canton Avenue and opened a tavern, which in a few years became

noted for "its fancy dinners and high living." Mr. Billings died in 1683, when the name of the hostelry was changed to "Blue Hill Tavern." The house was torn down in 1885 and some of the timbers were used in building a barn.

The Bent Tavern was opened on the corner of Canton Avenue and Atherton Street by Lemuel or Rufus Bent about 1740. About 1790 the name was changed to the "Bradlee Tavern," when Stephen Bradlee took possession. He was a son of John Bradlee, who settled in Milton some years before the beginning the Revolution. Stephen Bradlee died in 1803 and the house was kept for some time by his widow. Then she married Maj. Jedediah Atherton, who in 1810 built a new tavern on the site of the old one and opened it as the "Atherton House."

White's (later Wild's) Tavern was in existence as early as 1787, for in that year there was considerable excitement in the town over the report that a man had died of yellow fever at this house.

Clark's Tavern, on Randolph Avenue, was built in 1809 by Samuel Tucker for his son Joshua, who conducted it for several years. Then Minot Thayer purchased the property and ran the tavern for some time. He was succeeded in turn by several other proprietors before the house ceased to be a place of entertainment for travelers.

#### TOWN HALL

From the time Milton was incorporated until 1835, the town meetings were held in the meeting house. In March, 1835, the annual meeting was held in the Academy Hall. On August 24, 1836, the trustees of the academy voted to rent to the town the lower story of the building for forty dollars a year. A few meetings were held here, when the selectmen obtained permission to use the old stone church known as the "Railway Village Meeting House." Just how many town meetings were held in this house is not certain, but in 1837 it was voted to pay the trustees of the church \$300 for the use of the building.

At the same time this sum was voted a committee, consisting of John Ruggles, Jason Houghton, Jesse Tucker, Moses Gragg, Alva Martin, Walter Cornell and Samuel Adams, was appointed "to purchase a piece of land near the center of the town and proceed to erect thereon a town house not to exceed 40 by 60 feet, one story in height, and at a cost not to exceed \$2,500." About that time the surplus that had accumulated in the United States Treasury during the administration of President Andrew Jackson was distributed among the states, and by the states to the counties and towns. Through this channel Milton received \$3,424.89, which paid for the lot and town house and left a balance of \$589.46 in the town treasury. This hall served the town for more than forty years.

At the annual meeting in March, 1878, the town voted an appropriation of \$35,000 for a new town hall. William H. Forbes, Samuel Gannett, J. H. Wolcott, James M. Robbins, Samuel Babcock, George Vose, Edward L. Pierce, Horace E. Ware and Albert K. Teele were appointed a building committee, with instructions to procure plans and specifications and superintend the erection of the building. The plans selected were those prepared by Hartwell & Tilden, architects of Boston. William C. Poland & Son of Boston were awarded the contract for the brick and stone work; Creesey & Noyes of Boston, the carpentry work; J. Farquhar's Sons of Boston, the roofing; and L. Cushman & Son

of Waltham, the copper work. The roofing and copper work were afterward included in the contract of Creese & Noyes, as were also the painting and glazing, except the interior decorative painting, which was done by W. J. McPherson of Boston. The new hall was dedicated on February 17, 1879, Edward L. Pierce of the building committee delivering the historical address. The total cost of the structure was \$34,959.09.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in the town was established at Milton about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. Owing to the burning of the records at the time of the British attack on Washington in the War of 1812, it is impossible to give the exact date, but the office was in existence in 1801, with Dr. Samuel R. Glover as postmaster. He was succeeded by Moses Whitney in 1805, who held the office for some twelve years, when he resigned and Nathan C. Martin was appointed.

In April, 1872, the postoffice at East Milton was established, with J. W. Babcock as postmaster, and on April 1, 1874, the Blue Hill postoffice, on Canton Avenue near Harland Street, was opened for the receipt and delivery of mail, with Stillman J. Tucker as postmaster. This office at first received mail once a day through the postoffice at Mattapan. With the introduction of rural free delivery the postoffice at Blue Hill was discontinued, leaving but two offices in the town at the beginning of the year 1917.

#### WATERWORKS

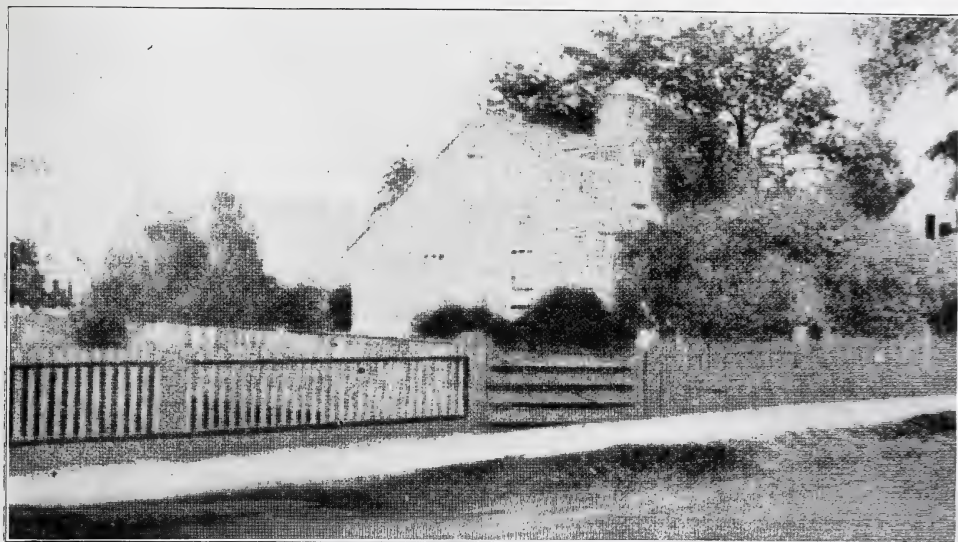
The system of waterworks in Milton was built by the Milton Water Company and was purchased by the town in 1902 for \$320,155.02, of which sum \$120,546.67 was applied to the payment of bonds issued by the company prior to the time of purchase. The annual appropriations from 1903 to 1916 inclusive aggregate \$47,000, but of these appropriations \$24,503.64 represents unexpended balances that were turned back into the treasury, making the net cost to the town at the close of the year 1916 the sum of \$342,651.38.

Since the plant was purchased by the town the mains have been extended until at the beginning of the year 1917 there were a little more than fifty-two miles, all of which except about one mile consisted of pipe more than four inches in diameter. The number of public hydrants was 401 and the total consumption of water for the year 1916 amounted to 135,878,000 gallons.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

On February 24, 1670, a town meeting ordered that every householder should have a "lader long enough to reach to ye top of his house by the last day of ye Fifth Month, or pay ten shillings for faleure to do so & five shillings a month thereafter so longe as he shall neglect to provide sayd lader." This is the first mention of fire protection to be found in the town records, though some precaution may have been made earlier, as the records for the first eight years are missing.

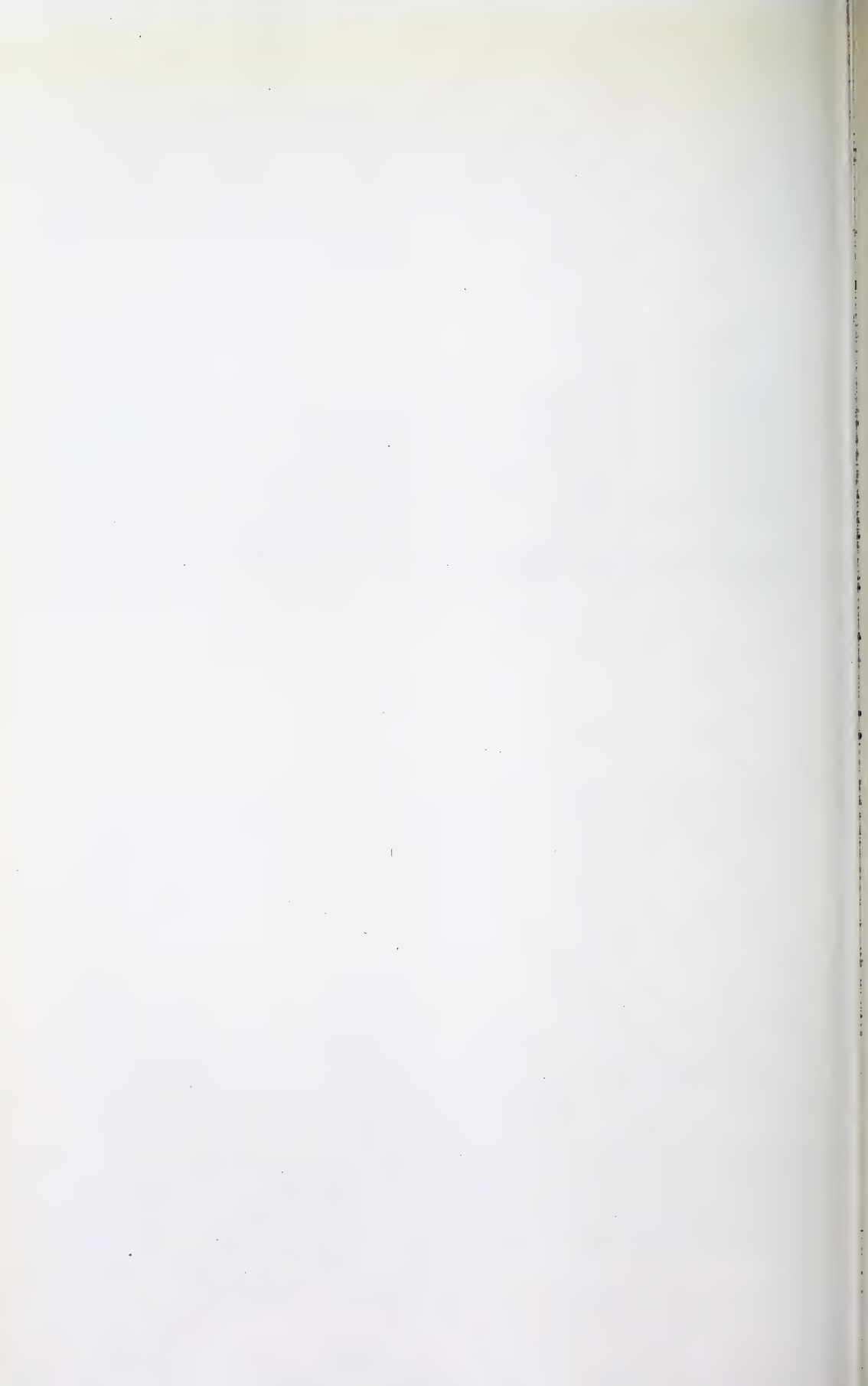
In 1793 the "Firewards Society of Dorchester and Milton" was organized and



OLDEST HOUSE IN EAST MILTON



OBSERVATORY, BLUE HILL RESERVATION. MILTON



Stephen Badlam was elected clerk. The members of the society were exempted by the two towns from military duty and the payment of poll tax. The first engine was a small affair, filled by leather buckets. Nearly every house had two buckets kept in some convenient place, where they could be easily reached in case of fire, and a number of buckets was always kept with the engine.

The first suction engine—the "Fountain"—was kept near the end of the bridge, on the Dorchester side of the Neponset River. A little later the "Alert" was procured and stationed on the Milton side and there was a friendly rivalry between the two companies as to which could respond the more promptly and render the better service at a fire. In 1845 a hydrant engine was purchased for \$1,200 and the same year a hook and ladder company was organized. A supply of hose was also purchased for the use of the fire company. Three years later the "Ninety's Hose Company" was organized. It is said to have taken its name from the "87 Hose Company," mentioned in "Doesticks," a volume published about that time. Better fire protection was afforded in 1861 when a line of pipe was laid from the mill to Canton Avenue and six hydrants were located thereon.

In 1881 an engine house was built by the town in the rear of the town hall, at a cost of \$3,195 and a chemical engine was bought for \$2,000 and placed in the new house. During the next two years a fire alarm system was installed, and at the close of 1883 there were twenty-three miles of wire and eighteen alarm boxes. At that time there were six reservoirs, in which water could be stored for fire emergencies—one near the town hall, one on Central Avenue, and the other four at points in East Milton. The annual town meeting in 1887 made an appropriation for the purchase of a steam fire engine and the erection of an engine house at Milton Centre. This was the first steam fire engine introduced in the town.

According to the report of the board of fire engineers for the year ending on December 31, 1916, "The apparatus of the department now consists of 1 motor ladder truck with chemical tank attachment; 1 750-gallon capacity motor pump engine; 1 motor combination hose and chemical truck; totalling a cost to the town of \$19,450, all of which is housed in the Central Fire Station. The department also maintains horse-drawn combination hose and chemical apparatus at both East Milton and Brush Hill."

During the year 1916 the department answered 131 alarms, besides eight calls to Boston and six to Quincy. The value of property involved in the 131 fires in the town was \$66,160 and the total loss by fire was \$5,207.30, on which the property holders recovered insurance of \$4,332.30, making the actual fire loss \$875—a record rarely equaled by town fire departments.

#### FINANCIAL HISTORY

Milton is the third wealthiest town in Norfolk County, being exceeded in this respect only by the Town of Brookline and the City of Quincy. According to the report of the assessors for the year 1916, the total valuation of property was \$35,104,044. This is \$1,965,319 lower than the valuation of 1915, but the decrease is not due to any real loss of property, being due merely to a readjustment of assessments by the board of assessors. On December 31, 1916, the funded debt of the town was \$455,000, distributed as follows:

School loans .....	\$244,000
Water bonds outstanding.....	160,000
Sewer loans .....	29,000
Library loan .....	15,000
Public Park loans.....	7,000
Total .....	<u>\$455,000</u>

Of the school loans, \$175,000 was authorized in 1916 for the purpose of erecting a new high school building. On the other side of the ledger the town property was valued as follows:

School buildings and contents.....	\$ 273,890
Public Library and contents.....	137,318
Police Station and contents.....	35,304
Other buildings and contents.....	167,947
Cemetery .....	50,000
Public grounds and parks.....	36,000
Other real estate.....	19,700
Waterworks .....	<u>315,000</u>
Total .....	<u>\$1,035,159</u>

In addition to this municipal property, the treasurer reported assets consisting of cash on hand and uncollected assessments of \$201,167. If this be added to the \$1,035,159 representing the value of buildings, etc., the town has total assets of \$1,236,326, or nearly three dollars for every dollar of the funded debt. Surely the holder of Milton's obligations need feel no anxiety as to the safety of his securities. The total appropriations made by the annual meeting in 1916 amounted to \$397,705, to wit:

Highway construction .....	\$ 50,000
Highway maintenance .....	30,300
Sprinkling and oiling streets.....	10,000
Sidewalks .....	5,000
Police department .....	33,245
Fire department .....	24,770
Water department .....	14,400
Schools .....	96,300
Poor .....	7,000
Public Library .....	10,000
Street lighting .....	17,923
Interest .....	11,079
Salaries .....	10,800
Public parks .....	3,600
Miscellaneous .....	<u>73,288</u>
Total .....	<u>\$397,705</u>

In a majority of the cases, as shown by the above table, the appropriations were in excess of the actual necessities, and the auditor, in his financial statement at the close of the year, reported unexpended balances amounting to \$180,007. This shows that while the people of Milton are liberal in giving support to the town's institutions, the officials who have charge of the disbursement of public funds have been governed by reasonable concern for the interests of the tax-payers of the town, and that they have used good business judgment in making their contracts and purchases.

#### A FEW FIRST THINGS

The first birth recorded in the town records is that of Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Swift, who was born on August 21, 1662.

The earliest recorded marriage was solemnized on November 30, 1671, when Alc Caig became the wife of Samuel Pilcher, though it is quite certain that this was not the first in the town—being only the first on record.

The first recorded death is that of Robert, son of Edward Vose, who died on November 11, 1667. An infant son of John Keney died two days later.

The first mention of a school is in the records for March 4, 1669, when "Ebenezer Tucker was chose Scoole Master for the west end of the Town."

The first sermon was preached by Rev. Stephen Kingsley, but Rev. Joseph Emerson was the first regularly licensed clergyman to hold religious services in the town.

The first powder mill in this section of the colony was ordered in August, 1673. A company was at that time organized by Rev. John Oxenbridge and Rev. James Allen, pastor and teacher respectively of the First Church in Boston, Robert Sanderson, Capt. John Hull and Freegrace Bendall to build a mill for the manufacture of gunpowder. They brought over from England Walter Everendon as superintendent, and the mill was located just south of the Neponset bridge, on the Milton side of the river. At the time of King Philip's war the General Court ordered "a constant watch to be kept at Unkety for the preservation of the powder mill and the grist mill in its immediate vicinity."

The first pound was built in 1670 on Mr. Cushing's land near the present White Street.

The first paper mill was started in January, 1728, and the first chocolate mill in the fall of 1764. The first violoncello was made by Benjamin Crehore in 1798, and the first piano by the same man two years later.

#### OLD FAMILIES

One little passage in the historical address of Edward L. Pierce at the dedication of the town hall, February 17, 1879, is worthy of more than passing notice. Said he: "There has been a continuity in the life of this town rare in municipal history. Growing in population by natural increase rather than by accessions from other places, there has been a steady flow of influence and character from one generation to another. Eight of the original trustees, to whom, in 1664, a tract of land was conveyed for a meeting house and other ministerial purposes, have always since had and still have descendants in the town bearing their names,

and in some instances living upon and holding, without break in the chain of title, their ancestral acres—the Voses, Wadsworths, Tuckers, Sumners, Gullivers, Babcocks, Swifts and Cranes.”

#### MILTON IN 1917

In 1910 the population of Milton, according to the United States census, was 7,924. The state census of 1915 reports it as 8,600, and in 1916 the superintendent of the waterworks estimates it at 8,933. These figures show a steady gain in the number of inhabitants, much of which is due as Mr. Pierce said in his address to “natural increase.” Of the families mentioned by him, six were represented in the tax list for 1916, the Cranes and Gullivers being the only ones missing.

Milton has two banks, one of which has been in existence for nearly a century, a weekly newspaper (the Record), several churches, some manufacturing interests, steam and electric railway transportation, and is one of the most desirable residence towns in the county.

Following is a list of the principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917: James S. Russell, Maurice A. Duffy and James P. Mitchell, selectmen and surveyors of highways; G. Frank Kemp, clerk; J. Porter Holmes, treasurer; Clarence Boylston, William W. Churchill and Charles H. Horne, assessors; Josiah Babcock, tax collector; J. H. Raymond and Frederick N. Krim, auditors; Theodore T. Whitney, Jr., Howard Leslie and Thomas B. Gordon, water commissioners; Albert D. Smith, Arthur H. Tucker, Walter D. Brooks, Horace N. Plummer and Caroline E. Williams, overseers of the poor; Bernard W. Trafford, Malcolm Donald and J. Sumner Draper, park commissioners; Harris Kennedy, H. B. Edwards, Frank P. Fanning, Stephen C. Mitchell, Reginald L. Robbins and Eva B. Churchill, school committee; Maurice Pierce, Peleg Bronsdon, Timothy McDermott and George W. Higgins, constables; Philip S. Dalton, James S. Gallagher and J. H. Holmes, fire engineers.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### THE TOWN OF NEEDHAM

ORIGINALLY PART OF DEDHAM—LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—SURFACE—INDIAN OCCUPATION—FIRST SETTLEMENT—PETITION TO BE SET OFF AS A TOWN—THE TOWN INCORPORATED—FIRST TOWN MEETING—CHANGING THE BOUNDARIES—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—ELECTRIC LIGHT—POSTOFFICES—A HISTORIC MONUMENT—TOWN SEAL—MODERN NEEDHAM.

The territory now comprising the Town of Needham was included in Dedham when the latter was incorporated on September 8, 1636, and remained a part of that town for three-quarters of a century. Needham is situated in the northerly part of the county, in a bend of the Charles River. On the northwest it is bounded by Wellesley; on the northeast by the Charles River, which separates it from the City of Boston; and also on the southerly side by the Charles River, which there separates it from the towns of Dedham and Dover. That portion of Dedham known as "Dedham Island," lying on the opposite side of the Charles River from the main part of the town, forms a small part of Needham's boundary line on the southeast. There are several small streams in the town, all tributary to the Charles River. They rise in the central part and flow in nearly all directions, which indicates the general character of the surface.

#### INDIAN OCCUPATION

At the time Dedham was incorporated, and for many years afterward, the land in what is now Needham was claimed by the Indians. On April 14, 1680, a deed was executed by William Nahaton (sometimes written Nehoiden) and his brothers and sisters to "a parcel or tract of land as it lieth towards the northerly side of Dedham, by the Great Falls of the Charles River, to the Natic saw mill brook," etc. About a year later, April 18, 1681, John Magus, a minor chief living at Natick, and his wife, Sara Magus, relinquished all their claims to "the whole parcel or tract of land as it lieth in Dedham bounds," etc. The tract thus deeded to the white inhabitants was known as "Magus Hill" and included the present towns of Needham and Natick and that part of Dedham called Dedham Island. The consideration received by Magus and his wife was five pounds in money and Indian corn to the value of three pounds—a total of about forty dollars. The same lands today are worth several millions of dollars.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT

It is uncertain just when or by whom the first settlement was made in Needham, but it was no doubt soon after the extinguishment of the Indian title, as

mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. The records of a Dedham town meeting held in March, 1694, bear evidence that a settlement of some kind existed in the vicinity of Magus Hill. On July 2, 1705, the Dedham selectmen granted one Benjamin Mills a license "to keep a public house near the Lower Falls," and on March 9, 1709, the settlers living on the opposite side of the Charles River from Dedham Village petitioned the town for a grant of eight pounds to pay a minister for three months, which request the records show was granted.

There must have been a considerable number of inhabitants at that time, or the grant would hardly have been made. It is not probable that a meeting house had then been erected, but that the preaching was to be done at a pioneer school house, or in the homes of some of the inhabitants. A little more than a year later the people of what is now Needham took the first steps to have a town of their own established, by petitioning the General Court to that effect.

#### THE PETITION

The petition asking for the incorporation, which was presented to the General Court in May, 1710, was signed by Henry Alden, Samuel Bacon, Hezekiah Broad, Edward Cook, Robert Cook, Andrew Dewing, Andrew Dewing, Jr., Jonathan Dewing, John Fisher, John Fisher, Jr., Thomas Fuller, Robert Fuller, John Gill, Joseph Hawes, Stephen Hunting, Eleazer Kingsbury, James Kingsbury, Josiah Kingsbury, Timothy Kingsbury, John McIntire, Thomas Metcalf, Benjamin Mills, Benjamin Mills, Jr., William Mills, Zechariah Mills, Richard More, Matthias Ockinton, Isaac Parker, Jonathan Parker, John Parker, John Parker, Jr., Samuel Parker, Christopher Smith, John Smith, Joshua Smith, Andrew Wadkins, Ebenezer Ware, Ephraim Ware, Jeremiah Woodcock and John Woodcock.

Opposition to the petition developed in the Town of Dedham, which appointed a committee to appear at the October session of the General Court and show why the petition should not be granted. The effect of this move on the part of the mother town was that the General Court declined to grant the prayer of the petitioners at that time, but advised the people of Dedham to exempt them from paying taxes for the support of the minister at Dedham, provided they would undertake to have religious services among themselves and to employ a minister to conduct such services. This advice was accepted by a town meeting held in Dedham on November 13, 1710, and on the 19th of March following still further encouragement was given by the proprietors of undivided land in Dedham setting apart two lots of land (about one hundred and thirty-three acres) to be used by the settlers of Needham for the support of the ministry. This placed the inhabitants of Needham in the position of a separate precinct, although such precinct was not organized under the laws of the colony.

#### THE TOWN INCORPORATED

The people of the little settlement northwest of the Charles River were not satisfied, however, with their quasi-precinct organization and during the summer and early fall of 1711 another petition asking the General Court to incorporate "that portion of Dedham lying north of the Charles River as a separate town," was circulated and signed by most of the inhabitants. This petition came before



PUBLIC LIBRARY, NEEDHAM



TOWN HALL, NEEDHAM



the General Court at the fall session, and on November 5, 1711, it was granted, "the new town to be known as Needham."

Concerning the name of the town, Rev. Stephen Palmer, in a historical address delivered by him at the centennial celebration of the town in 1811, said: "I have been informed by one of the descendants of the venerable Timothy Dwight, of Dedham, who was a member of the Legislature when this town was incorporated, that it was named Needham at the request of Governor Dudley after Needham in England, and because that town is near to Dedham, although in a different county."

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

Needham's first town meeting was held on December 4, 1711, when the following officers were elected: Timothy Kingsbury, John Fisher, Benjamin Mills, John Smith and Robert Cook, selectmen; Timothy Kingsbury, clerk; Robert Cook, treasurer. On May 19, 1712, Robert Cook was elected as the first representative to the General Court. The only other business transacted at the meeting of December 4, 1711, besides the election of officers, was the appointment of a committee to select a suitable place for a burial ground. The committee was composed of the selectmen, Jonathan Gay, Jeremiah Woodcock, Thomas Metcalf and Eleazer Kingsbury.

#### CHANGING THE BOUNDARIES

As established in 1711, Needham included the present Town of Wellesley and a part of Natick. On October 3, 1774, the westerly part was set off as a precinct and about four years later was organized as a separate parish. Natick was set off from Dedham in 1781. By an act of the General Court in 1797, the tract known as the "Needham Leg," containing 1,656 acres, was added to Natick, but Needham received in return 404 acres from Natick in another place, the change making both the towns of better shape. On June 21, 1803, the Turtle Island, at the Upper Falls of the Charles River, was taken from Needham and annexed to Newton. The Town of Wellesley was set off on April 6, 1881, reducing Needham to its present dimensions.

#### TOWN HALL

In the erection of the Town of Wellesley in 1881, the town hall that had served Needham for a number of years went to the new town. Needham received from Wellesley about thirty thousand dollars, which was applied chiefly to the payment of the town debt. Town meetings were held in hired halls for about twenty years, but on November 26, 1901, a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of building a new town hall. The committee made a report in favor of such a movement, and on March 17, 1902, the following building committee was appointed: Rodman P. Snelling, Daniel W. Richards, Emery Grover, John E. Buckley and Harrie S. Whittemore. Plans were made by Winslow & Bigelow, architects, and the contract was awarded to Mead, Mason & Company. The corner-stone was laid by the Masonic fraternity on September 2, 1902, and

the building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the evening of December 22, 1903. The cost, including the furnishings, was \$57,500. The structure stands on the common, so that nothing was paid for land. It is one of the best appointed town halls in the county. The ceremony of the corner-stone laying was made a part of "Needham Old Home Week" and was attended by a large concourse of people.

#### WATERWORKS

In March, 1887, a committee, consisting of Dr. Albert E. Miller, C. A. Hicks, Thomas F. Peabody, James E. Cahill and William Carter, was appointed to investigate the sources of a water supply and report at a subsequent meeting. The following July an appropriation of \$500 was made for the use of the committee, and on March 8, 1888, an act was approved authorizing the town to issue bonds to the amount of \$75,000, to establish a system of waterworks. Later acts authorized bond issues aggregating \$280,000. One provision of the act of 1888 was that it was not to become effective until approved by a vote of two-thirds of the legal voters of the town. On November 7, 1889, the necessary two-thirds vote was obtained, the proposition having twice been defeated, and on December 3, 1889, the first board of water commissioners was elected, viz.: John Moseley, John M. Hodge and James Mackintosh.

During the summer and fall of 1890 the waterworks were sufficiently completed to furnish water to the more densely populated parts of the town, the supply being taken from Colburn Spring. In October, 1897, a water reservation was established by the purchase of the Colburn farm of seventy-three and a half acres, and the first well was sunk soon afterward. Well No. 2 was added in 1900 and in 1902 the Hicks Spring, with seven acres adjoining, was added to the reservation. By 1905 the water mains were extended to all parts of the town.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first official mention in the Needham records regarding fire protection is in the minutes of the meeting of March 4, 1833, when George W. Hoogs, William Flagg, William Pierce, David C. Mills, Tyler Pettee and Elisha Lyon were elected firewards. During the next five years volunteer companies were evidently organized, as on April 3, 1838, the town voted to exempt engine men from poll tax. In 1840 the town voted to "furnish a hose carriage for the use of the engine company at the Lower Falls, the cost not to exceed thirty-five dollars." Three years later Colonel Rice, William Flagg, Lyman Greenwood, Galen Orr, Elisha Lyon and Richard Boynton were appointed a committee to raise money by subscription for a new engine for the Lower Falls, notwithstanding a majority of the members of the fire company there were Newton men and the apparatus was kept on their side of the river. The committee was also instructed to consider the question of providing fire protection at the Upper Falls, where an engine company had been organized. No report of this committee can be found.

In 1844 the town appropriated the sum of \$150 for the different engine companies, to be distributed as follows: Lower Falls, \$60; East Needham, \$60;

Upper Falls, \$30. Very few changes were made in the department during the next thirty years, further than to replace old apparatus with new as it wore out, and the introduction of new members of the several companies as old ones dropped out of service. The records of the town meeting of 1874 show that the Cataract Engine Company was allowed \$296.28 and the Mechanics Engine Company, \$123.42, "for services at fires in excess of the \$500 appropriated."

New engine houses were erected at Needham Heights and on Chestnut Street in 1885, at a cost of \$3,000, and on March 4, 1889, an appropriation of \$900 was made for the installation of a fire alarm system, an arrangement being made that the bells of the First Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church should be used as alarm bells. Boxes were placed at the different engine houses and one at the corner of Nehoiden and Rosemary streets. The alarm system was installed by Henry D. Rodgers, who was the first superintendent.

The first hook and ladder truck (purchased in 1882 at a cost of \$760) was replaced by a new one in 1890, when a new company was formed, the department then numbering ninety men. In 1901 the Firemen's Relief Association was organized for the purpose of caring for sick or disabled members. A combination chemical and hose wagon was purchased for \$1,200 in 1905, and a second was purchased about two years later at a cost of \$1,800. Since then the department has been improved along general lines and is now in first class condition, both in organization and equipment.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT

The first street lights were introduced in 1874, in which year the town paid \$150 for maintaining forty-six lights. In 1878 the number of lights had increased to 179 and the cost to the town for their maintenance was \$450. An act of the General Court in 1881 authorized the Newton and Watertown Gas Light Company to extend its pipes into Needham, but only a part of the town ever received any benefit. In 1883 James Mackintosh raised \$1,320 by subscription for the establishment of eighty-eight street lamps, for which the town agreed to care. Ten years later the number was increased to 127 lamps.

Under the act of 1891, Massachusetts towns were authorized to construct their own lighting plants. The provisions of this act were accepted by the people of Needham on March 7, 1892, and at another meeting on June 23, 1893, the selectmen were authorized to issue bonds for \$10,000, and to be commissioners of a sinking fund, the money received from the sale of the bonds to be used for the purpose of constructing a municipal lighting plant. Before anything was done under this order, the selectmen were instructed by a meeting held on September 15, 1893, to enter into a contract with the Eliot Falls Electric Light Company to furnish current, and an additional appropriation of \$3,500 was made for the erection of poles, etc., the money to be raised by the sale of bonds. Nineteen miles of poles and wires were placed by the Hawes Electric Company, and late in the year the town received its first electric lights. The Eliot Falls Company was succeeded by the Natick Gas and Electric Company, and in 1898 the Needham contract was renewed with the latter company for five years. In 1903 the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Boston purchased the holdings of the Natick Company and since then light has been furnished by the Edison Company.

## POSTOFFICES

On May 17, 1826, a postoffice was established at Needham—the first in the town—with Rufus Mills as the first postmaster. He first kept the office in his house, using a small trunk as a receptacle for the mail, but later removed it to Daniel Kingsbury's store. A few years ago the little trunk was kept on exhibition for several days at the postoffice, to show the beginning of Needham's mail facilities, and it was viewed by a large number of people with manifest curiosity.

The second postoffice was established at West Needham, with Charles Noyes as postmaster. The exact date when this office was ordered by the postoffice department cannot be ascertained, but it was prior to 1830, as in that year mail was delivered three times a week by the stages running between Boston and Natick. Noyes held the position of postmaster but a short time, when he was succeeded by William Flagg, who served for twenty-five years. The site of this office is now in the Town of Wellesley.

On January 6, 1851, the third postoffice in the town was established at Charles River Village, with Josiah Newell as postmaster. In November of the same year a postoffice was established at Grantville in charge of William H. Adams as postmaster. Grantville was made a railroad station in 1884. It is now in the Town of Wellesley.

The postoffice at Highlandville (now Needham Heights) was established on December 19, 1871. Jonathan Avery was the first postmaster at this office. Rural free delivery was inaugurated in Needham on June 4, 1900.

## A HISTORIC MONUMENT

In 1851 the town erected a monument upon an elevation in the old cemetery to commemorate the valor of the Needham men who lost their lives in the Revolutionary war. The monument is in the form of a granite obelisk, and upon the side next to the public street is the inscription: "In memory of John Bacon, Amos Mills, Elisha Mills, Jonathan Parker and Nathaniel Chamberlain, who fell at Lexington April 19, 1775. For liberty they died."

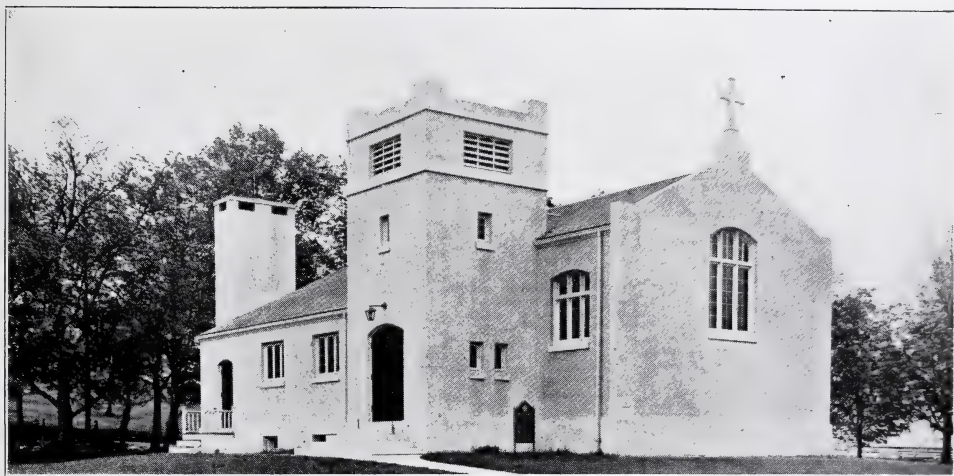
John Bacon was first lieutenant in Capt. Caleb Kingsbury's company; Amos Mills and Nathaniel Chamberlain were privates in the same company; Elisha Mills was a sergeant and Jonathan Parker a private in Capt. Robert Smith's company. A history of these companies will be found in the chapter on the Revolution.

## THE TOWN SEAL

The design of the Needham town seal is certainly appropriate and conveys an idea of the town's history. In the center are two white men and an Indian in a circle, representing the purchase of the lands from the natives; on the left is a wigwam and on the right a large tree, under which the treaty was held, and in the background is a hill, representing Magus Hill. In the circle surrounding this design are the words, "Town of Needham, Incorporated, 1711."

## MODERN NEEDHAM

Besides the public utilities above enumerated, Needham has a banking institution, a fine public library, a good public school system, excellent highways, a



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEEDHAM HEIGHTS



THE CARTER MILLS, NEEDHAM HEIGHTS



number of manufacturing enterprises, especially in knit goods, mercantile houses in keeping with the demands of the population, churches of the leading denominations, lodges of the principal fraternal organizations, and a number of social and literary clubs. In 1910 the population was 5,026. The town then stood eleventh in population, but the state census of 1915 raised it to the ninth place, giving it a population of 6,542, a gain of 1,516 in five years. The assessed valuation of property in 1915 was \$8,765,666, only eight of the Norfolk County towns returning a larger valuation.

## CHAPTER XXV

### THE TOWN OF NORFOLK

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY—EARLY HISTORY—NORTH PARISH OF WRENTHAM—INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN—FIRST TOWN MEETING—TOWN HALL—POSTOFFICES—THE PRESENT NORFOLK.

Norfolk is situated in the westerly part of the county. On the north it is bounded by Medfield and Millis, being separated from the latter for a short distance by the Charles River; on the east by Walpole; on the south by Wrentham; and on the west by Franklin. A little of the boundary line on the southeast is formed by the Town of Foxboro, and the Stop River forms a portion of the boundary line between Norfolk and Walpole. The general surface is quite similar to that of the surrounding towns—rolling, and in some places hilly. There are a few ponds and some small streams, tributaries of the Charles and Stop rivers.

#### EARLY HISTORY

The general history of Norfolk is uneventful. When the Town of Wrentham was incorporated in October, 1673, it included the greater part of the present Town of Norfolk, and the territory remained attached to Wrentham for nearly two centuries. The first settlements were made here while the town was still a part of Wrentham and the early history is therefore incorporated in the chapter relating to that town. Among the early settlers in this section were the Blakes, Days, Holbrooks, Manns, Ponds, Richardsons, Wares and several other families whose names have become intimately interwoven with the affairs of Norfolk County.

In 1791 the warrant for a town meeting in Wrentham contained an article—"To see if the inhabitants are satisfied with the Rev. David Avery as a Gospel Minister," and "provided that if the major part of the town are satisfied with the Rev. David Avery, to see if the town will consent that any persons who are dissatisfied may go to any other society to do duty and receive privilege," etc.

Most of those who were dissatisfied with Mr. Avery as a minister lived in the northern part of Wrentham. Although no action was taken upon the above mentioned article at the town meeting, the fact that it was inserted in the warrant was an acknowledgment that the dissatisfaction existed. Mr. Avery continued to exercise the duties of pastor and early in the fall of 1795 a call was issued by some of the leaders in the northern part of the Town of Wrentham for the inhabitants of that section to meet on "Tuesday, September 29th next for the purpose of knowing the minds of our inhabitants for building a meeting house for public and social worship at the said north end."

The meeting was well attended and after considerable discussion it was decided to build a meeting house. A lengthy subscription paper was drawn up (probably in advance of the meeting), giving the reasons for such action, and this was signed by thirty-eight of the most influential men in that part of Wrentham, pledging the aggregate sum of \$1,244 for the purpose of building a meeting house and employing a minister to their liking. It seems that the Town of Wrentham offered no objection and in this way the present Town of Norfolk became the North Parish of Wrentham.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN

Norfolk continued as the Wrentham North Parish for about one and a quarter centuries. In 1869 a petition to the General Court was prepared and circulated among the inhabitants, asking that the North Parish, with portions of the towns of Franklin, Medway and Walpole, be incorporated as a town. The petition came before the next session of the General Court, and on February 23, 1870, the following act was approved:

"An Act to incorporate the Town of Norfolk.

"Be it enacted, etc.

"Section 1. All the territory now within the towns of Wrentham, Franklin, Medway and Walpole, in the County of Norfolk, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at a point on Charles River, in the northwest angle of Wrentham, and following in an easterly course the present line of division between Wrentham and Medfield to Stop River; thence running southerly along said river, and separated by the thread of its stream from Walpole, to a point forty rods north of the mouth of the first brook running into said river below Campbell's Mills, on the easterly side; thence from said point, by a straight line, running to the junction of Back and Bird streets in Walpole; thence with the easterly side of said Bird Street to its junction with West Street; thence westerly by the northerly side of West Street twenty-five rods; thence southerly, and near to and westerly from the barn belonging to the home estate of Charles Bird, until said line strikes Stop River one hundred and twenty rods southerly from West Street; thence along said river as far as Wrentham and Walpole are separated by the thread of its stream; thence by a straight line, running westerly of the Walpole almshouse and easterly of the farm buildings of Patrick Reardon, and easterly of the Dupee Blake place, so called, to a point on the line between Walpole and Foxborough, one hundred and twenty-five rods northeasterly from Dedham Rock; thence from said point, following the present line of division between Wrentham and Foxborough, to Dedham Rock; thence southerly from said rock along the present line of Wrentham and Foxborough to a point on said line on the southerly side of Pine Street; thence by a straight line to a point on the westerly side of Everett Street, northerly of the house of Edmund T. Everett and southerly of the Pondville Cemetery, to a point on the westerly side of North Street, five rods southerly of the farm buildings of Samuel J. Benn; thence through the Stony Brook reservoir, near to the house of E. S. Nash, to a point on the line between Franklin and Wrentham, ninety rods southerly of the house of Eliphalet Lawrence; thence running northerly by a straight line, near to and west of the farm buildings of the home estate of J. E. Pollard,

near the Elliot Felting Mills, near to and thirty-five rods west of the present residence of Saul B. Scott, to the southern extremity of Populatic Pond; thence along the western shore of said pond, at low-water mark, to Charles River; thence in an easterly course upon Charles River, and separated by the thread of its stream from Medway, to the center of the iron bridge over said river; thence upon the thread of said river to the bridge of the Medway branch railroad; thence along the southerly side of said railroad twenty-eight rods to a point; thence from said point by a straight line running in a northeasterly course, passing southeasterly of and near to the village of Deanville, near to and south of the old barn belonging to John Barber, to a point on Baltimore Street two rods from said barn; thence by a straight line to the easterly side of the great bend in Charles River and near the old fording place; thence upon said river and separated by the thread of its stream from Medway to the point of beginning—is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Norfolk; and said Town of Norfolk is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and is subject to all the duties and requisitions to which the other towns are entitled and subjected by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth."

Section 2 relates to arrears of taxes assessed upon the inhabitants of Norfolk by the towns from which territory was taken, which were to be paid to the said towns as if this act had not been passed.

Section 3 provides for the support of paupers, and Section 4 that "Norfolk shall retain the school houses within its limits and shall assume and pay its just and equitable proportions, according to its present assessed valuation, of any debt due or owing from the towns of Wrentham and Franklin, respectively, at the time of the passage of this act, and shall be entitled to receive from said towns, respectively, its just and equitable proportion, according to said assessed valuation, of all the corporate property then owned by the said towns of Wrentham and Franklin," etc.

Section 5 defines the representative, senatorial, congressional and councilor districts for the new town.

"Section 6. Any justice of the peace within and for the County of Norfolk may issue his warrant, directed to any principal inhabitant of the Town of Norfolk, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the time and place appointed for the purpose of choosing all such town officers as towns are by law authorized and required to choose at their annual meetings; and said warrant shall be served by posting up copies thereof, attested by the person to whom the same is directed, in three public places in said town, seven days at least before such meeting. Such justice of the peace, or, in his absence, such principal inhabitant, shall preside until the choice of a moderator in said meeting. The selectmen of the towns of Wrentham, Franklin, Medway and Walpole, shall, before said meeting, prepare a list of voters from their respective towns within said Norfolk, qualified to vote at said meeting, and shall deliver the same to the person presiding at said meeting before the choice of a moderator thereof."

Section 7 provides that "This act shall take effect upon its passage," and as previously stated, the act was approved on February 23, 1870.

## FIRST TOWN MEETING

Under the provisions of Section 6, the first town meeting in Norfolk was held on Monday, March 7, 1870. It was called to order by Saul B. Scott, the justice who had issued the warrant, and during the voting for moderator, Rev. Daniel Round checked the lists of voters that had been furnished by the selectmen of Wrentham, Franklin, Medway and Walpole. Albert G. Hills was chosen moderator, after which the following town officers were elected: Saul B. Scott, Levi Mann and Erastus Dupee, selectmen; Silas E. Fales, clerk; James H. Haines, George E. Holbrook and Elisha Rockwood, assessors; William E. Coddington, treasurer; George P. Cody and Albert E. Dupee, constables; J. K. Bragg, Lothrop C. Keith and Daniel J. Holbrook, school committee; Charles Jordan and Darius Ware, fence viewers; Levi Mann and Oren C. Ware, surveyors of lumber. The meeting closed by a vote of thanks to Mr. Hills for his efficient and impartial services as moderator, and another to Silas E. Fales and William A. Jepson for the gift of a ballot-box.

## TOWN HALL

When the Town of Norfolk was incorporated it came into possession of the old North Parish Church, which was erected in 1796, and which was used just as it was for several years as a town house. In 1879 the building was thoroughly remodeled and a tower erected, in which is a clock presented to the town by Josiah Ware. The building stands upon an eminence and its tower commands a fine view of the surrounding country.

## POSTOFFICES

About 1819, sixty-one years before the Town of Norfolk was incorporated, Eli Richardson built the stone store building at City Mills and secured an appointment as postmaster of the office established soon after the building was completed. This was the first postoffice within the present limits of the Town of Norfolk. Some years later an office was established at the "Centre" and was given the name of Norfolk. Deanville, in the northwestern part, and Pondville, in the southeastern part, were once postoffices, but they have been discontinued. The only postoffices in the town on July 1, 1917, were those at Norfolk and City Mills.

## THE PRESENT NORFOLK

In 1910 the population of Norfolk, according to the United States census, was 960. The state census of 1915 reported a population of 1,268, a gain of 308 in five years. There is some manufacturing done in the town, but the principal occupation is agriculture. The Boston & Willimantic division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system passes through the town, with stations at Norfolk and City Mills, and the Boston & Providence division of the same system touches the southeast corner, with a station at Pondville. In 1915 the assessed valuation of property was \$1,111,482. In that year Norfolk re-

ported the smallest population of any town in the county except Dover, and the smallest property valuation except the towns of Bellingham and Plainville. The town has a good public school system, churches of different denominations, but is without either a bank or a newspaper. Norfolk, Deanville, City Mills and Pondville are all supplied with general stores and are trading centers for the surrounding agricultural districts.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### THE TOWN OF NORWOOD

LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND SURFACE—FIRST SETTLEMENT—THE SOUTH PRECINCT  
—FIRST PRECINCT MEETING—LOCATING THE MEETING HOUSE—CHANGING  
THE BOUNDARY—TOWN OF NORWOOD INCORPORATED—FIRST TOWN OFFICERS—  
TOWN SEAL—PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS—TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1917.

The beautiful and enterprising Town of Norwood is centrally located, being bounded on the north by Westwood; on the east by the Neponset River, which separates it from the Town of Canton; on the south by Sharon and Walpole; and on the west by Walpole and Westwood. The surface is more or less hilly and is drained by the Babbling (or Hawes) Brook in the southwest, and by the Purgatory Brook in the northern part. Both these streams flow in a southeasterly direction to the Neponset River.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT

Originally, the territory now forming the town was included in Dedham. As the grant to the Dedham proprietors in 1636 was so extensive, it offered great inducements to persons of an adventurous disposition to begin new settlements within its limits. It is impossible to say just who was the first white man to locate within the present bounds of Norwood, though in 1658 Eleazer Lusher and Joshua Fisher received a grant of land and the privilege of building a saw mill on the Neponset River, near the Cedar Swamp. Mr. Lusher did not remove to the mill site, but Mr. Fisher did, and he was one of the early settlers.

In 1664 Daniel Pond and Ezra Morse built a corn mill on the artificial stream known as "Mother Brook," near Dedham Village, but when their dam was completed it was found to interfere with a mill privilege previously granted to Nathaniel Whiting and they were compelled to remove their dam. Ezra Morse was then granted, as a compensation for his loss, forty acres on the Neponset River, "near the old saw mill or at Everett's Plain." He selected the former and became one of Norwood's pioneers. Other early settlers were the Everetts, Guilds, Bullards, Smiths, and some of the Fales family.

#### THE SOUTH PRECINCT

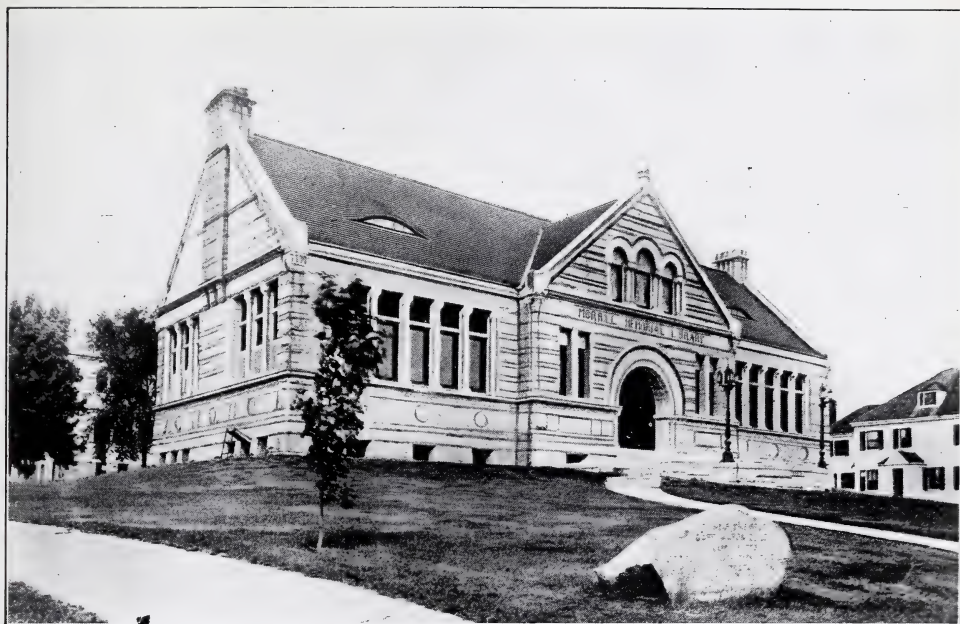
On December 23, 1726, a petition was presented to the General Court by some of the people living in what are now Stoughton and Norwood, asking that they might be organized into a precinct "in order that a meeting house might be erected for public worship," etc. Stoughton had been incorporated as a town

the day before this petition came before the General Court. Notice was served upon that town and Dedham, and a remonstrance came in which was strong enough to defeat the object of the petitioners. It was not long, however, until another petition, headed by Joseph Ellis, was presented. This petition stated in more explicit terms the difficulties under which the inhabitants labored in attending church, especially in bad weather, and asked for the establishment of a precinct, or that the meeting house be moved nearer to the center of the Town of Dedham. A committee was appointed to repair to Dedham, investigate the conditions, and report to the General Court "on Tuesday, the 5th day of December next." Following is the report of the committee:

"The committee appointed by the Great and General Court to take into consideration the circumstances of the Town of Dedham, and the petition of the southerly part of said town, having attended the said service, report as follows: That viewing the situation and considering the circumstances, are of the opinion that it will be inconvenient to grant the prayer of the petition at present; but for as much as it appears to the committee that the major part of the petitioners labor under great difficulties in the winter season, in attending the Public Worship of God, by reason of their distance from the Meeting House, the committee propose that the Public Worship of God be performed by a Minister, to be provided by the petitioners in some private house, as near the center as may be, for five months in the year, viz., November, December, January, February and March, and that there be allowed thirty shillings per Sabbath for the said service, the charge to be borne by the whole town, and to continue until the further order of the Court, all of which is humbly submitted by order of the committee."

This report was accepted by the Council and concurred in by the House, after which it was presented to the governor, who consented to such an arrangement. But it was not satisfactory to the inhabitants of the southern part of Dedham. They wanted a precinct and parish of their own. Consequently, Joseph Smith, Samuel Everett, John Guild, James Fales and others kept up the fight, and during the next two years several petitions were presented to the General Court. Under the pressure of these sundry petitions, another committee was appointed by the General Court to look into the situation and recommend a course for the Court to pursue. Of this committee William Dudley was chairman, and on November 19, 1729, he reported as follows:

"The committee appointed by this Court to take under consideration the several petitions, and having been at ye Town of Dedham and Stoughton, and heard what ye several parties had to say, as well as to view ye circumstances of ye Inhabitants, humbly report on ye whole their Opinion as follows, viz.: That all that part of Stoughton lying on ye westward of the Neponset River, and to the Northward of Traphole Brook to ye Walpole line, be added to and incorporated into the Town of Dedham, with all ye Inhabitants, which with the Southern part of Dedham, we humbly are of Opinion be made into a distinct Township, the boundaries of ye whole to be as follows: Beginning at a place called Purgatory on Neponset River, where it may most conveniently take ye house and home lot of Josiah Fisher, Jr.; from thence to a place called the Cross Wayes; taking in ye house and home lot of John Hause (Hawes); from thence so as to take in ye house and home lot of Lusher Gay; from thence so as to take in ye house and home lot of John Baker; from thence to the line for the Precinct at Springfield



MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, NORWOOD



NORWOOD PRESS CLUB, NORWOOD



(now Dover) so as to take in ye house and home lot of Amos Fisher; thence by ye said line to Bubbling Brook; from thence to Walpole line and by ye said line to Traphole Brook; and by ye said Brook to Neponset River; and by ye same to ye first mentioned station, and that ye petitioners have leave to bring in a bill accordingly.

"And whereas there has been and still remains an unhappy difference of opinion among ye Inhabitants about placing a Meeting House for the Public Worship of God, it is therefore humbly proposed that the said Meeting House may be ordered in such place and time as a Committee of this Court shall appoint, so as to accommodate the inhabitants of Dedham, or of all the Inhabitants of this proposed Town, and the committee propose that the Western part of Dedham be set off by that town for a Precinct, to be confirmed accordingly, and that the Inhabitants thereof be allowed to congregate, as they do now, till the further order of this Court: Provided they do their proportion of the charge of supporting a minister where they leave."

No action was taken upon this report for nearly a year, but on October 3, 1730, the Council voted to accept the report and ordered "That the Prayer of this Petition be granted, so far as that the Southwesterly part of ye Town of Dedham, together with the westerly part of ye Town of Stoughton, according to the bounds expressed in the Report of a Committee of this Court in December (November) last, be erected into a Township, and that the Petitioners bring in a bill."

Five days later the House concurred in this action, except striking out the word "township," and inserting in its place the word "precinct." The same day the Council accepted the amendment and the governor gave his official sanction to the act, so that the territory now comprising the Town of Norwood became the South Precinct of Dedham on October 8, 1730.

#### FIRST PRECINCT MEETING

Under a separate act of the General Court, John Everett, "a principal inhabitant," was authorized to call a meeting of "ye Inhabitants of ye Precinct." He served his warrant upon each qualified voter "to assemble in his Majesty's name at the house of John Ellis on October 22, 1730, to choose Precinct officers." When the meeting assembled John Everett was chosen moderator and James Fales, Jr., was elected clerk. The only officers elected were three assessors, viz.: John Everett, Ebenezer Healy and James Fales, Jr., who were authorized to call other meetings of the precinct.

At a second meeting, held on November 9, 1730, Ebenezer Dean was elected treasurer and Samuel Holmes, tax collector. It was voted at this meeting to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty pounds, "to pay a minister for six months—three months to be at the house of John Ellis and three months at the house of Nathaniel Guild, if it can be obtained; if not the entire six months at the house of John Ellis." Joseph Ellis and John Dean were chosen a committee to procure an orthodox minister, and it was also voted "to build a Meeting House for the Public worship of God in ye Precinct, said house to be forty feet in length and thirty-six feet in width, to be erected at ye centre of the precinct," and William Everett, Nathaniel Guild, Ebenezer Healy, Joseph Ellis and Ebenezer Dean were

appointed a building committee. The sum of one hundred pounds was voted to pay for the building.

#### LOCATING THE MEETING HOUSE

On January 30, 1731, Joseph Ellis and Samuel Bullard were chosen a committee to procure a surveyor to find the center of the precinct, but it seems the exact center was an undesirable spot for the meeting house. "A loving and friendly conference" was therefore held on June 7, 1731, at which it was decided to ask the General Court to appoint a committee "to place ye Meeting House for this Precinct," and John Everett and William Bullard were selected to present the matter to the Court. In response to the petition the General Court appointed Joseph Wadsworth of the Council and John Jacob and Benjamin Bird of the House. They reported in favor of "the south end of the common land lying between John Cobb's and Doctor Richards' as the best place to set it on," which report was accepted by the Court and the precinct was ordered to pay four pounds four shillings to pay the expenses of the committee. The site was not acceptable to a majority of the precinct, and at a meeting on July 14, 1731, it was voted not to appropriate money to build a meeting house on the spot selected by the committee, nor to pay the expenses of the committee.

In the meantime a meeting house had been commenced near the center of the precinct, as voted by the meeting of November 9, 1730, but owing to dissensions over the location had not been finished. During the year 1731 no fewer than twelve meetings were called to consider the question of locating the meeting house, but the lack of harmony prevented a decision. The year 1732 brought no better results, and on February 26, 1733, William Bullard, James Fales, Jr., Ebenezer Dean, William Everett and Ebenezer Healy were selected as a committee to carry the matter once more before the General Court and ask for a reversal of the order to build a meeting house on the common land near the house of John Cobb, but to establish the place according to a vote of the precinct, and to order the three hundred pounds already granted to be expended on the said center meeting house. This called forth a counter petition on the part of Joseph Ellis and others living in the northerly part of the precinct. The result was that the Court ordered "Joseph Ellis and others, with the two Fishers and Aaron Ellis with their estates, to be laid back to the Old Precinct; the others to remain in the South Precinct."

A committee from the General Court then reported that, having considered the petition of William Bullard and others, "the place for a Precinct Meeting House be between the houses of Ebenezer Dean and Nathaniel Guild on the Northwest side of the way to Walpole, about nine rods from said Guild's fence, in the quarter of an acre of land given and granted to the said Precinct by the said Dean," etc. On January 4, 1735, the voters of the precinct accepted the site recommended by the committee, appropriated the balance of the one hundred pounds voted by the meeting of November 9, 1730, and John Everett, William Bacon, Daniel Draper and John Dean were appointed a building committee to carry into effect the order of the meeting. On February 6, 1735, an additional appropriation of £150 was made toward the erection of the meeting house and John Farrington and Nathaniel Lewis were added to the building com-

mittee. One would suppose that the vexed question of a meeting house was now settled. But when on February 9, 1736, the people selected Rev. Thomas Balch as their pastor, Daniel Draper and seven others, being dissatisfied with the choice, petitioned the General Court to be released from the precinct. The petition was granted, except in the cases of John Cobb, William Bullard, Nathaniel Lewis and Samuel Farrington, who were ordered to remain in the South Precinct. Thus after about five years of dissension, which resulted in a division of the precinct as originally established on October 8, 1730, the question of the meeting house location was set at rest. The church, with Rev. Thomas Balch as pastor, was formally organized on June 23, 1736.

#### CHANGING THE BOUNDARY

By an act of the General Court, approved on January 9, 1738, "Capt. Ezra Morse and his sons, Ezra, Jr., and Joseph, with their estates, are set off from Walpole and annexed to Dedham and to the South Precinct. Also that part of Stoughton which was within the limits of the South Precinct is annexed to Dedham and the Neponset River is made the dividing line between the towns of Dedham and Stoughton, the original line being about one mile west of that river."

A few years later a large part of the estate of Nathaniel Sumner was set off from Sharon and annexed to the South Precinct of Dedham. In 1763 the line between the two parishes was defined by a committee composed of Ebenezer Everett and Eliphalet Fales on the part of the South Precinct; Isaac Whiting and Ichabod Gay, on behalf of the Clapboard Tree Parish. They reported: "The line beginning from ye center betweene ye meeting houses, then runs North 50 degrees East to ye place where the house of Ebenezer Ellis stood, from thence North one degree west to the Cross Wayes. The distance betweene ye Meeting Houses is one and a half mile and 33 rods."

In 1767 the First Precinct selected Jonathan Metcalf, John Eaton and William Avery to act with Nathaniel Sumner, David Fisher and Benjamin Fisher of the Second Precinct in fixing the boundary line between the two. The committee reported as follows: "We began at Purgatory Hole so called, thence run Northwesterly to a White Oak tree with stones around it on the land of Joseph Wight; thence to a heap of Stones at the Northeasterly corner of land now belonging to Deacon William Avery, thence more northerly to the eastwardly corner of land now belonging to Capt. Daniel Gay, thence westerly to the Cross Ways near the house of Jeremiah Dean; and we are of the opinion that said line ought to be the dividing line between said Precincts, and for the future to be esteemed as such, excepting such lands as have since the setting off of the South Precinct been by the General Court laid to the First Parish in Dedham, which is humbly submitted."

#### TOWN OF NORWOOD INCORPORATED

On December 22, 1871, a meeting was held in the village hall to consider the advisability of presenting a petition to the General Court asking that the South Precinct of Dedham be erected into a town. George B. Talbot and a few of his

friends had previously circulated a petition to that effect and obtained 252 signatures. At the meeting a committee was appointed to appear before the legislative committee on towns and support Mr. Talbot's petition, which asked for the establishment of a new town to embrace the old South Precinct and a small portion of Walpole, the inhabitants of which were closely connected with the proposed new town through their business interests and social relations. Neither Dedham nor Walpole offered any objections to the movement, and on February 23, 1872, Governor Washburn approved an act, Section 1 of which was as follows:

"All the territory now within the towns of Dedham and Walpole in the County of Norfolk, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: Beginning at the point where the southerly side of Canton Street crosses the dividing line between the towns of Canton and Dedham; thence running northwesterly on the westerly side of said Canton Street about three thousand feet, to a point dividing the lands of John and Luther Eaton; thence running from said point, on a line in the direction of the old parish boundary now standing at the junction of Centre Street and East Street, until said line strikes and crosses Downey Street at a point about thirteen hundred and two feet from a monument at the corner of Downey Street and Everett Street; thence running westerly on the northerly side of Everett Street, and crossing Centre Street, to the street boundary post on the southerly side of Clapboard-tree Street, near the southwesterly abutment of the Boston, Hartford & Erie Railroad bridge near Ellis Station; thence running westerly by the southerly side of Clapboard-tree Street to the angle in said street, which is about forty-five rods west of Jeremiah Gay's house; thence in a straight line toward the corner of land of Samuel Cheney on Winter Street, twenty-one rods north of the house of said Samuel Cheney, until said line strikes Nahatan Street about three hundred and nine feet southerly from the north corner of Ebenezer Gay's land; thence in a straight line passing through the easterly line of the junction of Oak Street and Brook Street, to the dividing line between the towns of Dedham and Walpole; then following the said dividing line southeasterly to a monument where Brook Street crosses Babbling Brook, at a point south of and near the house of James R. Fisher; thence in a straight line to a monument on the east side of the old Post Road, on land now or late of the heirs of Isaac Fisher; thence by the lines dividing the Town of Dedham from the towns of Walpole, Sharon and Canton respectively to the point of beginning—is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Norwood."

Thus it was that Norwood, after having been a precinct of Dedham for 142 years, took her place among the towns of Norfolk County. On March 6, 1872, the citizens celebrated the birth of their town. Among the distinguished guests present were Governor Washburn, Senator Thomas L. Wakefield of Dedham, A. B. Endicott and Benjamin Weatherbee, two of Dedham's selectmen, and several others. Governor Washburn made a short speech in which he congratulated the people of the new town upon the auspicious beginning of its career.

#### FIRST TOWN OFFICERS

In accordance with a provision in the act of incorporation, Willard Gay issued a warrant for a town meeting to be held on Monday, March 11, 1872. George Lovis was chosen moderator, after which the following town officers were



HIGH SCHOOL, NORWOOD



WINSLOW SCHOOL, NORWOOD



elected: Samuel E. Pond, Willard Gay and Edward Everett, selectmen; Francis Tinker, clerk; L. W. Bigelow, treasurer; Caleb Ellis, George H. Morse and Tyler Thayer, assessors; J. C. Park, Rev. E. A. Wyman and Francis O. Winslow, school committee; James Engles and C. W. Strout, constables.

After the election of these officers, the first official act of the Town of Norwood was to extend a vote of thanks to the committee who had served so faithfully in presenting the petition for a new town to the Legislature, etc. This committee was composed of John C. Park, Caleb Ellis and J. W. Talbot. The next thing was to adopt the following: "Resolved, That the citizens of Norwood, in town meeting assembled, recognize with grateful pleasure the readiness and courtesy with which the citizens of Dedham and Walpole have assisted us in the inauguration of our new town; and that the clerk be instructed to present a copy of this resolution to the selectmen of Dedham and Walpole."

#### TOWN SEAL

The corporate seal of the Town of Norwood is typical of its early history, while it was still the Dedham South Precinct. In the background of a circular field is a team of oxen hitched to a plow, and to the right is a clump of trees. In the foreground is the figure of a man in the costume of colonial days, with musket on his shoulder and powder-horn hanging at his side, while underneath are the words: "Aaron Guild, April 19, 1775." Aaron Guild was one of the residents of the precinct at the time the Lexington Alarm was sounded through the colonies. The deserted ox team and plow tell the story of his loyalty to the cause of the colonists. He was a member of Capt. Joseph Guild's company in the northern campaign of 1775-76, and was afterward captain of a company, a large number of the members of which came from the South Precinct. (See chapter on the Revolution.) In the margin of the seal are the words: "Town of Norwood, Mass., Incorporated Feb. 23, 1872."

#### PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS

Norwood is the fifth town in the county in point of population, and also the fifth in wealth. In 1910 the population was 8,014 and the state census of 1915 reported 10,977, a gain of 2,963 in five years. The assessed valuation of property for 1916 was \$17,074,710. This was about thirty thousand dollars lower than the valuation of the preceding year, owing to a readjustment of assessments. On December 31, 1916, the bonded indebtedness of the town was \$527,900, and the value of municipal property was \$1,427,801, or nearly three dollars of assets for each dollar of debt, not including cash on hand and other personal property.

The town has a system of waterworks that cost \$361,000, with the principal pumping station at Ellis Station and another at Westwood. The supply is taken from deep wells, with the Buckmaster Pond as an auxiliary supply in case of emergency. During the year 1916 the amount of water pumped was 347,000,000 gallons, and the income of the works was \$39,933.35. Norwood also has a municipal lighting plant, the value of which was estimated at the close of the year 1916 as \$125,000. The income for that year was \$66,817.80 and the operating expenses, including the town fire alarm system, were \$52,549.22. The fire

department is equipped with combination auto truck, motor hose wagon and a hook and ladder truck drawn by horses.

Norwood has two banks, a weekly newspaper (the Messenger), a number of prosperous manufacturing establishments, well stocked mercantile houses, a fine public library, good public schools, Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal and Universalist churches, a fine, new Masonic temple, well paved streets, and many handsome residences. The division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford that runs from Boston to Providence via Wrentham passes through the town, with stations at Ellis, Norwood, Norwood Central and Morrills, and the town is connected with Boston and the adjacent towns by electric railway lines, hence the transportation facilities are excellent.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1917

Following is a list of the principal town officers at the beginning of the year 1917: Frank G. Allen, Oliver J. Barr, George K. Bird, Patrick J. Lydon and John E. Folan, selectmen; James E. Pendergast, clerk and accountant; Harold W. Gay, treasurer and collector; Clarence A. Bingham, general manager; Mahlon R. Perry, John P. Crowley and Aaron L. Goodwin, assessors; Cornelius M. Callahan, Alfred N. Ambrose, Ralph E. Bullard, Sarah N. Bigelow, Henry I. Everett and Harriet W. Lane, school board; Francis J. Foley, Herbert H. Miller and Frank A. Fales, finance commission; James A. Halloran, town counsel; J. F. Boyden, Frank W. Talbot and Clarence A. Bingham, board of fire engineers; Joseph E. Conley, superintendent of public works.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—EARLY HISTORY—PETITION FOR INCORPORATION—THE ORGANIC ACT—FIRST TOWN MEETING—DIVISION OF PROPERTY—THE TOWN SEAL—MISCELLANEOUS—TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1917.

Plainville is the youngest of the Norfolk County towns. It is located in the southwestern part and is bounded as follows: On the north by Wrentham; on the east by Foxboro; on the south by Bristol County, and on the west by the State of Rhode Island. From north to south its average width is a little over two miles, and from east to west it is five miles in extent. The surface in this part of the county is less hilly than in some other portions. There are no large streams in the town and the few small ones all flow toward the south. Miramichi Pond is on the boundary between Plainville and Foxboro. It is sometimes called Shepard's Pond, after one of the early settlers in the vicinity. There is another large pond about a mile west of Miramichi, and there are a few smaller ponds in the neighborhood of Plainville Village.

#### EARLY HISTORY

From 1636 to 1673 the territory now comprising the Town of Plainville was included in the Town of Dedham. In the latter year it was made a part of Wrentham, where it remained until the Town of Plainville was incorporated in 1905. For more than ten years after the incorporation of Dedham, the inhabitants knew comparatively little of this region, which was known by the Indian name "Wollomonopoag." About 1647 John Dwight and Francis Chickering reported indications of some mines, "about thirteen miles from Dedham Village," and the general opinion is that some mines were at Wollomonopoag. Two years later, "on account of the scarcity of grass in Dedham, the inhabitants went to Wollomonopoag to cut grass from the meadows there." That is the only mention in the Dedham records of this part of the county until July 22, 1660, when the selectmen appointed Lieutenant Fisher, Sergeant Fuller, Richard Wheeler and Ensign Fisher to view the lands and make report to the selectmen, etc. On the last day of December following, the selectmen submitted the report of the viewers, to wit: "To us it seemeth that it might be helpfull to Conduce to publick and particuler good that the place might be planted with meet Inhabitants in due time."

At a general town meeting held on March 27, 1661, it was voted that a plantation be set up at the place called Wollomonopoag, and that a committee be appointed to allot to each settler his proportion of the 600 acres set apart for the

plantation; to determine who were meet to be accepted; and "to order the setting of the Plantacion in reference to High Wayes convenient place for a Meeting House, with such other things Necessary as may here after be proposed." This was the beginning of authorized settlement at Wollomonopoag, the name of which place was changed to Wrentham in 1673. The account of the settlement will be found in the chapter devoted to Wrentham.

#### PETITION FOR INCORPORATION

While still a part of Wrentham, the Village of Plainville was laid out and settled and a postoffice was there established. Early in the year 1905 the following petition was presented to the Legislature, then in session:

"To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, etc.,

"The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Wrentham, respectfully represent that they are inhabitants of the Village of Plainville, in said town; that they are desirous of having said Village of Plainville set off as a separate town under the name of Plainville, or such other name as to the General Court seem suitable; and that the boundaries of the new town be fixed as follows: Beginning at the northeast boundary stone of the State of Rhode Island; thence in a straight line to the Foxboro town line on the south side of Thurston Street; and on all other sides by the Town of Foxboro, North Attleboro, and the State of Rhode Island."

This petition was signed by William S. Metcalf, H. E. Thompson, Willis M. Fuller, Rufus King, "and many others." On April 3, 1905, a bill, which had previously passed the senate, was reported in the house of representatives and passed the same day. It was approved the following day, so that Plainville dates its corporate existence from April 4, 1905.

#### THE ORGANIC ACT

"Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

"Section 1. All the territory now within the Town of Wrentham which lies south of the following described line, to wit:—A straight line drawn from a stone monument in the boundary line between the Town of Wrentham and the Town of Cumberland in the State of Rhode Island, which monument is at the intersection of the lines forming the northeast corner of the State of Rhode Island, to a point where the southerly line of Thurston Street in the Town of Wrentham intersects the boundary line between the Town of Wrentham and the Town of Foxborough, is hereby incorporated as a separate town by the name of Plainville, and the said Town of Plainville is hereby vested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and shall be subject to all the duties and obligations conferred or imposed on towns by the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.

"Section 2. The inhabitants of the estates within the Town of Plainville and the owners of all such estates, shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes which have legally been assessed upon them by the Town of Wrentham, and all the taxes heretofore assessed and not collected shall be collected and paid to the treasurer of the Town of Wrentham, and all moneys now in the treasury of the

Town of Wrentham, or that may hereafter be received from taxes now assessed, shall be applied to the purposes for which they were raised and assessed, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed; and until the next state valuation the Town of Plainville shall annually, in the month of November, pay to the Town of Wrentham its proportion of such state and county taxes as may be assessed upon the Town of Wrentham, said proportion to be ascertained and determined by the last valuation of the Town of Wrentham; and the assessors of the Town of Wrentham shall make return of said valuation and the proportions thereof in the towns of Wrentham and Plainville, respectively, to the secretary of the Commonwealth and to the county commissioners of the County of Norfolk."

Section 3 relates to the liability of each of the towns of Wrentham and Plainville in the care of paupers, and Section 4 provides that all suits and proceedings at law or in equity, in which the Town of Wrentham is a plaintiff or defendant, shall be prosecuted or defended as though the act had not been passed.

"Section 5. The corporate property of the Town of Wrentham both real and personal, in existence at the time of the passage of this act, and the town debts then existing, shall be divided between the towns of Wrentham and Plainville, according to the valuation of the property within their respective limits as assessed the first day of May in the year 1904. The towns shall severally retain and hold all the real and personal property now within their respective limits, at a valuation to be agreed upon by a committee consisting of six legal voters, three to be chosen by each town at a legal meeting to be called for that purpose; and the differences in valuation shall be equalized and balances adjusted by apportionment of the town debt. In case of failure to agree upon a valuation and division of the assets and liabilities the same shall be determined by a board of three commissioners, none of whom shall be a resident of either of said towns, to be appointed by the Superior Court for the County of Norfolk, in term time or vacation, upon the petition of either town after notice to the other, whose award when accepted by the court shall be final, and the said court may issue any writ or make any order thereon necessary to carry their award into effect. The award may be set aside for fraud or manifest error, but for no other cause, and the matters to be determined as aforesaid may be recommitted to the same or to other commissioners to be appointed for the purpose, with like powers and duties as aforesaid."

Section 6 provides that the public library building at Wrentham Centre and the fund held by the trustees of said library shall belong to the Town of Wrentham. Section 7 places the Town of Plainville in the judicial district of the District Court of Western Norfolk, the Twelfth Congressional District, the Second Councillor District, the Second Norfolk Senatorial District and the Tenth Representative District of Norfolk County. Section 8 authorizes any justice of the peace in the County of Norfolk to issue his warrant for a town meeting in the Town of Plainville, and Section 9 makes it incumbent upon the selectmen of Wrentham to call a special town meeting within thirty days for the purposes of electing town officers to fill vacancies caused by the incorporation of Plainville. Section 10 relates to powers and privileges reserved to Wrentham in the construction, maintenance and operation of certain street rail-

ways. Section 11 provides that the Town of Plainville shall bear the expense of making the surveys and establishing the line between it and Wrentham. Section 12 sets forth that Plainville shall receive a proportional part of any funds paid by the Commonwealth or by the United States to Wrentham on account of bounties to soldiers or for state aid heretofore paid to soldiers' families, "after deducting all reasonable expenses," and Section 13 declares the act shall take effect upon its passage.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

On April 5, 1905, the day following the approval of the act of incorporation, James H. Shannon, a justice of the peace residing in Plainville, issued a warrant to William F. Maintien "to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Plainville qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet in the Plainville Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday, the 12th day of April, A. D. 1905, at nine o'clock in the forenoon," to elect officers and transact certain other business set forth in the warrant, especially the appointment of a committee to act with a committee of Wrentham for the division of the town property.

The officers elected at that first town meeting were as follows: William F. Maintien, George F. Cheever and William S. Metcalf, selectmen, overseers of the poor and board of health; James H. Shannon, clerk; Walter E. Barden, treasurer; George W. Wood, tax collector; William F. Maintien, Joseph F. Breen and J. F. Thompson, assessors; John J. Eiden, auditor; Edward C. Barney, highway surveyor; Rufus King, Bentley W. Morse and Gardner Warren, school committee; John H. Greven, Sylvester Smith and Daniel Crotty, constables.

On the question of the division of the town property, William F. Maintien, Herbert E. Thompson and Walter E. Barden were unanimously chosen by the meeting as Plainville's members of the joint committee provided for in Section 5 of the act of incorporation. The meeting also voted to borrow \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school house, and Herbert E. Thompson, W. M. Fuller, Rufus King and Edward C. Barney were appointed a committee to superintend the erection of the building. Walter E. Barden, Frank O. Corbin and Rufus King were appointed a committee on by-laws, with instructions to procure designs for a town seal and report at the next meeting. Their report on by-laws was made at a special meeting held on Monday, November 6, 1905, and was accepted.

#### DIVISION OF PROPERTY

The committee above named met with the Wrentham members—Elbridge J. Whitaker, Artemas Willard and Edward F. McClelland—and the joint committee organized by electing Elbridge J. Whitaker as chairman and William F. Maintien as clerk. After canvassing all the property, real and personal, they found within the limits of Wrentham property valued at \$43,592, and in Plainville at \$13,712.22, in addition to which the former held assets of \$16,391.44, making the total valuation of corporate property \$73,695.66. Wrentham assumed all the town's liabilities, amounting to \$29,277.11. The final settle-

ment was that Wrentham should pay to Plainville \$4,055.20 to equalize the division of corporate property, and \$727.30, with interest thereon at 4 per cent from February 1, 1905, as the town's share of the school fund.

#### THE TOWN SEAL

At the meeting of November 6, 1905, the committee on by-laws, pursuant to the instructions of the first town meeting, submitted a design for a town seal, a representation of the new school building to occupy the center of the seal. James H. Shannon, town clerk, brought forward a design making use of the Angle Tree boundary monument as the proper emblem to occupy the center of the seal, and explained at some length the significance of his design. Walter E. Barden, a member of the committee, moved that the design submitted by the town clerk be substituted for that offered by the committee, which was carried by a decisive majority.

A brief history of the Angle Tree monument shows the wisdom of the town in selecting it as the central figure of the corporate seal. When Charles I granted the patent to the Massachusetts Bay Company in the spring of 1628, the southern boundary was designated as "three miles south of the southerly end of the Charles River." It was not long until disputes arose between the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies as to the exact location of the boundary line. In 1640 Plymouth selected William Bradford and Edward Winslow, and Massachusetts Bay selected John Endicott and Israel Stoughton, "for ye setting out, settling & determing of ye bounds & limitts of ye lands betweene ye said jurisdictions," etc.

The work done by these commissioners evidently was not satisfactory to the people of the two colonies, for in 1664 a second commission was appointed to run and mark the line. The record of this survey was outlined on a tree, called the "Angle Tree," standing on the line between the present towns of Plainville and North Attleboro, where it remained for more than a century. Finally the old tree disappeared and in May, 1790, the General Court appointed Lemuel Kollock to erect a monument where the tree stood, and to "make a return of his doings into the Secretary's office with a Certificate from under the Hands of the Selectmen of the Towns of Wrentham and Attleborough or the Major Part of them sworn to before some Justice of the Peace certifying that said stone is erected in the same spot where the said station or angle tree formerly stood & is one of the bounds between said towns, and lay his account before this Court for allowance and payment."

On March 11, 1791, Lemuel Kollock was allowed £21 2s 6d for "procuring and fixing a Monument upon the important Bounds in the Town of Wrentham, by order of the Government." It is a representation of this monument which occupies the center of the town seal. At the top of the monument are the words "Mass. Colony 1628"; in the center, divided by the figure of the monument, "Wrentham, 1673, Plainville, 1905," and in the circle surrounding the central field the inscription: "Town of Plainville, Mass., Incorporated April 4, 1905."

#### MISCELLANEOUS

A fire engine house had been built in the Village of Plainville before the town was incorporated in 1905. This became the property of the Town of Plainville

in the division, and the department has since been improved by the purchase of some new equipment and a supply of hose. The appropriation for the department in 1916 was \$500. Soon after the town was incorporated a system of waterworks was established. At the close of the year 1916 the amount of water bonds outstanding was \$29,400. In their report for that year the water commissioners announce that the total supply of water pumped and distributed was 9,968,954 gallons, and the amount received from water rates was \$2,366.06. Plainville is well supplied with public schools, churches of different denominations offer opportunities for public worship, the manufacturing interests include jewelry, shoestrings and shoddy, the town claiming the largest manufactory of ladies' mesh bags in the world, and the mercantile interests are in keeping with the general demands of the town. The Boston & Providence division (via Wrentham) of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and the electric railway running from Franklin to Attleboro provide good transportation facilities.

In 1910 the population of Plainville was 1,385, and in 1915 it was 1,408, a gain of only 23 in the five years, owing to the removal of several persons from the town. In 1916 the assessed valuation of property, as shown by the report of the assessors, was \$1,070,032.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1917

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town officers were: Earl B. Thompson, William E. Blanchard and Fred W. Northup, selectmen, overseers of the poor and board of health; Theodore E. A. Fuller, clerk; Walter E. Barden, treasurer; J. Fred Thompson, William E. Blanchard and Frank E. Barney, assessors; Harry B. Thompson, William H. Nash and Charles N. Moore, water commissioners; James H. Cheever, auditor; John J. Eiden, Willis M. Fuller and Charles C. Root, school committee; Oliver P. Brown, tax collector.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

### THE CITY OF QUINCY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—SETTLEMENT—MERRYMOUNT—GOVERNOR ENDICOTT—PART OF BRAINTREE—THE TOWN INCORPORATED—FIRST TOWN MEETING—AN EARLY CUSTOM—TOWN HALL—QUINCY GRANITE—POSTOFFICES—CITIZENS GAS COMPANY—INCORPORATED AS A CITY—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—MODERN QUINCY—CITY GOVERNMENT.

The City (formerly Town) of Quincy is situated in the eastern part of the county and is bounded as follows: On the north by the Town of Milton and Quincy Bay; on the east by the Weymouth Fore River and Town River Bay, which separate it from the Town of Weymouth; on the south by Braintree and Randolph; on the west by Milton, and on the northwest the Neponset River forms a little of the boundary line, separating Quincy from the City of Boston. The coast line from the mouth of the Neponset to the mouth of the Weymouth Fore River is indented by numerous bays, such as Dorchester and Quincy bays, Rock Island Cove and Town River Bay. Projecting into the waters are several capes or headlands, the principal of which are Commercial Point, Squantum Head, Quincy Great Hill, Hough's Neck, Rock Island Head, Gull Point and Quincy Point. The main water-courses are Town River, Sagamore and Black creeks and Furnace Brook. The surface is uneven and some of the finest granite deposits in the United States are found within the Quincy limits.

#### SETTLEMENT

It is quite probable that Capt. John Smith, while voyaging along the coast in 1614 and trading with the natives, landed in what is now Quincy, for on the rude map of the coast drawn by him the coast line can be identified. But the first recorded visit of white men was in the month of September, 1621, when Miles Standish and twelve men came up the coast from Plymouth, anchored in a small cove on Thompson's Island on the night of the 29th, and the next morning landed on Squantum Head, where they found a pile of lobsters, upon which they breakfasted. Taking four men and the Indian guide, Squanto, Captain Standish started out to explore the country. They soon met an Indian woman, who was going after the lobsters they had eaten, and for which Standish gave her something in the way of compensation. Squanto accompanied the woman to her village, which was on the northerly side of the Neponset, while Standish and his companions returned to their boat. Upon their return to Plymouth they gave a favorable account of the country they had visited, "wishing they had been there seated."

Nearly four years elapsed after the visit of Standish before any attempt was made to plant a settlement at the place where he had landed and which he partially explored. In June, 1625, a company of adventurers, chief among whom was a Captain Wollaston, came over from England with a party of articted servants with a view to establishing a trading post. They located at a place called by the Indians Passonagessit, but to which they gave the name of Mount Wollaston—a name which it still retains. Here was built the first house within the limits of Quincy, but its exact location cannot be determined. The winter that followed was severe and it seems that Captain Wollaston had enough of the “stern New England climate,” for in the spring of 1626 he took part of his company and set sail for Virginia, leaving a man named Rasdell in charge of the post at Mount Wollaston. He reached Virginia and managed to send word back to Rasdell to place one Fitcher in charge of the post and come on to Virginia, bringing with him a number of the servants, whose labor was afterward sold to Virginia planters.

#### MERRYMOUNT

In the company was Thomas Morton, who had first come to America with Andrew Weston, a brother of Thomas, in June, 1622, and passed a portion of that summer at Wessagusset (that portion of Weymouth later known as Old Spain), returning to England in September. Morton has been described as a sportsman who was desirous of returning to America, but was without means to organize an expedition of his own. Having been connected with Weston's unfortunate venture, he deemed it imprudent to apply to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who was laboring to encourage emigration, so he joined the company led by Captain Wollaston. When the latter sent for the man Rasdell, Morton saw that it was the intention to break up the settlement at Mount Wollaston, a movement with which he was not in sympathy. He therefore sowed the seeds of discontent among the remaining servants by telling them that if they were taken to Virginia they would be sold, and suggested that if they would place him at the head of the plantation they could all live there in comfort and derive large profits by trading with the Indians. After Rasdell's departure there were but eight men left, one of whom was the man Fitcher selected by Wollaston to conduct affairs.

Morton soon won over the seven men and Fitcher was expelled from the settlement. He went to Plymouth, leaving Morton in full control. Nor did he fail to make good his promises regarding easy living and the profits of the Indian trade. With the Indians he became a great favorite, because he not only bought their furs on liberal terms, but he also admitted them to the drunken revels of the trading post. Morton decided to rechristen the plantation and on May-day, 1627, he set up a maypole, a merry song was made “which was sung by a chorus, every man bearing his part, which they performed in a dance hand in hand about the maypole, while one of the company sang and filled out the good liquor, like Ganymede and Jupiter.” The name selected by Morton was Maremount, but the place soon became known as “Merrymount,” on account of the wild orgies conducted there from time to time.

Had Morton and his associates contented themselves with their frivolities, they would probably not have been molested by his neighbors at Plymouth, even



CAIRN ON PENN'S HILL, QUINCY



though they might have remonstrated with him because of his worldly practices. Unfortunately, however, he began to supply the Indians with fire-arms and ammunition. Some five years before this time the French on the coast of Maine and the Dutch in New York had commenced to sell guns and ammunition to the natives and the practice was forbidden by royal proclamation. Morton ignored the proclamation and sold the Indians all the guns he could spare, after which he sent to England for a new supply, preparatory to going into the business on a larger scale. All along the coast the infant settlements looked upon Merrymount as a menace to their safety. The settlers from Plymouth to Portsmouth realized that if they attempted to drive Morton out by force he could summon to his aid his Indian friends and prove to be a match for them all. Nevertheless, something must be done.

In the spring of 1628 the Plymouth authorities wrote a friendly communication to Morton, asking him to desist from his evil practices and requesting an answer by the messenger. Morton sent back word to the Plymouth magistrates that they were meddling in matters which in no way concerned them, and intimated that he was capable of conducting his trade with the Indians as he pleased and without any of their interference. Again the authorities wrote to Morton, reminding him of the royal proclamation concerning the sale of fire-arms to the Indians. To this he replied that King James' proclamation was not law and that he was prepared to defend himself against any attempt to molest his business or his plantation. Early in June, 1628, Capt. Miles Standish was despatched with eight men to suppress the Merrymount nuisance. Standish had evidently been coached by some of Morton's near neighbors, as he arrived at a time when most of the company were absent on a trading expedition. He found Morton at Wessagusset, to which place he had gone, as he said, "for the benefit of company." Standish arrested him and placed him under guard. During a thunder storm that night, the prisoner managed to make his escape and went back to Merrymount, where he barricaded himself in his house, accompanied by his three retainers, one of whom Charles Francis Adams says "in the endeavor to stimulate his courage, got hopelessly and helplessly drunk."

When Standish and his party arrived on the scene the next morning and demanded a surrender, Morton returned an insolent reply. The door was ordered to be broken down, when Morton came out, followed only by his drunken associate. He aimed his gun at Standish, but it was turned aside by one of the Plymouth party, after which Morton was again made prisoner and this time was taken to Plymouth. From there he was sent to England. Merrymount being outside the jurisdiction of the Plymouth colony, it is clear that Morton's arrest and banishment was not strictly legal, but "desperate diseases yield only to desperate remedies," and the act was one of self-preservation.

#### GOVERNOR ENDICOTT

In September, 1628, about three months after the arrest of Morton, Governor Endicott and his company landed in Salem, under the patent of March 19, 1628, to those who afterward became known as the Massachusetts Bay Company. Endicott was a typical Puritan and when he learned of the doings of Morton (it is possible that he had received instructions regarding the Merrymount

plantation before leaving England), he lost no time in taking action. With a small company he crossed the bay, suddenly appeared at the settlement, overawed the startled inhabitants, hewed down the maypole and warned them against the continuance of their pernicious practices. Bradford says the Merrymount people now changed the name of their place and called it Mount Dagon.

No charge was placed against Morton in England and in some way Isaac Allerton, the London agent of the Plymouth Company, was induced to befriend him by helping him to get back to America. Late in the summer of 1629 he appeared at Plymouth, much to the chagrin of the inhabitants, and from there made his way to Merrymount, where he again assumed control. Although he did everything in his power to annoy Governor Endicott, it seems he was tolerated for a time. About Christmas Endicott sent men to arrest him, but he succeeded in eluding them and continued his annoyances. His company was reduced by this time to a mere fragment of its former proportions, probably not more than four or five men being left. Morton was finally arrested in the latter part of August, 1629, and on the 17th of September was arraigned for trial. He attempted a defense, but was ordered to hold his peace and hear his sentence, which was pronounced by Governor Winthrop. He was ordered to be set in the stocks for a certain length of time, at the end of which he was to be transported to England, deprived of all his possessions, and have his house burned to the ground, "to the end that the habitation of the wicked should no more appear in Israel." Such was the end of Merrymount.

#### PART OF BRAINTREE

For several years after the expulsion of Morton the territory now comprising Quincy was without a single white inhabitant. Not until the May session of the General Court in 1634 was it "ordered that Boston shall have convenient enlargement at Mount Wollaston." On the 8th of December in the same year a grant of land at Mount Wollaston was made to Rev. John Wilson, pastor of the Boston Church, who was the first landowner in Quincy under the Massachusetts charter.

On January 4, 1636, the point of land which still bears his name was awarded to Atherton Hough, and at the same meeting a committee of five was appointed to make further individual allotments. Among those who received allotments under this arrangement were: William Hutchinson, husband of the noted Anne Hutchinson, William Coddington, Edmund Quincy, and Rev. John Wheelwright. The last named married a sister of William Hutchinson. He became minister at Mount Wollaston and as Anne Hutchinson was already engaged in a sort of feud with Rev. John Wilson when Wheelwright arrived in America in June, 1636, she made haste to enlist him on her side. The next few years were taken up with church dissensions on account of this feud, and little progress was made in developing the Quincy settlement. In March, 1638, Governor Winthrop ordered Mrs. Hutchinson to leave the Massachusetts jurisdiction and she crossed the Neponset to join Wheelwright's family, intending to go to Portsmouth, but the plans were changed and they went to Rhode Island, where some of their adherents followed.

After the expulsion of Mrs. Hutchinson and Wheelwright, more attention

was paid to the settlement of the region and on May 13, 1640, the Town of Braintree, which included the present City of Quincy, was incorporated by act of the General Court. From this time until February, 1792, the reader is referred to the chapter on Braintree for the history of the events connected with Quincy. However, it may be well to state that the South Precinct—which included the present towns of Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook—was incorporated on November 5, 1708, and Quincy became the North Precinct of Braintree, remaining as such for more than half a century.

#### THE TOWN INCORPORATED

In the latter part of the year 1790 about one hundred and twenty inhabitants of the Braintree North Precinct, and a few of those living in Dorchester and Milton immediately south of the Neponset River, united in a petition to the General Court asking that they might be set off as a separate town. The petition came before the Senate in January, 1791, and about the same time a town meeting was called in Braintree to decide on some course of action regarding it.

In the meantime the original South Precinct had become the Middle Precinct and a new South Precinct, embracing the present towns of Randolph and Holbrook, had been organized. These two precincts now combined against the petitioners. A committee of six was appointed "to appear before the General Court by counsel to oppose the division of the town, and its representative was instructed to the same end." The petition went over until the next session, and in September, 1791, another town meeting was held "to make one more effort before the legislative committee to prevent the dismemberment of Braintree." The effort proved futile, for on February 22, 1792, Gov. John Hancock, who had been born and brought up in the territory, approved the act incorporating the Town of Quincy.

While the act of incorporation was pending in the Legislature Rev. Anthony Wibird was requested to suggest a name for the town, something the petitioners had failed to do. He declined the honor and then Richard Cranch was asked to supply a name. He suggested the name Quincy, "in honor of Col. John Quincy." Some of the inhabitants wanted the town called Hancock, after Gov. John Hancock, who was then at the height of his personal popularity, though members of the Quincy family had been identified with the town almost from the very beginning.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

This same Richard Cranch, who was a justice of the peace, was authorized by the organic act to issue his warrant for the first town meeting, which he did, calling the meeting for Thursday, March 8, 1792. The warrant was addressed to Lieut. Elijah Veazie, who notified the voters, and at the appointed time the citizens assembled and elected the following officers: Ebenezer Miller, John Hall and Benjamin Beale, Jr., selectmen and assessors; Eben Vesey (or Veazie), clerk; Thomas B. Adams, treasurer; Joseph N. Arnold, constable; Peter Brackett and Jonathan Baxter, fence viewers; Peter Brackett, Ebenezer Nightingale, Jonathan Baxter, Samuel Bass and Jonathan Beale, surveyors of highways;

Peter Adams and John Sanders, hog reeves; William Adams and William Sanders, tithingmen; Thomas Pratt, surveyor of boards and stileworks; John Billings, surveyor of hemp; Ebenezer Adams, packer of beef; Samuel Brown, culler of fish; Jonathan Webb, bread weigher; Thomas Cleverly, Jr., sealer of leather; John Nightingale and Lemuel Billings, hay wards; Edward W. Baxter and Samuel Nightingale, fire wards.

From this formidable array of officials it would seem that Quincy started off on its career with an officer for every conceivable duty. Quite a number of the positions, such as bread weigher and culler of fish have long since passed out of existence.

#### AN EARLY CUSTOM

At the time Quincy was incorporated the custom prevailed in many of the New England towns, of warning undesirable inhabitants to leave within a given period, "or suffer the consequences." At a town meeting held on February 12, 1793, the selectmen were instructed to issue warning to the following persons that their presence in Quincy was no longer to be tolerated: Thomas Welsh and wife, Barnabas Swift, Thomas Swift, Seth Joice, James McDaniels, Jacob Fowle and family, Linke Herd and family, Joseph Dorren, ——— Copeland, John Paul and family, James Faxon and family, Gaius Thayer and family, William Jenkins and Patty Page. No reason is found in the records why these people were to be expelled so unceremoniously from the town, though it is evident that they were engaged in some questionable line of business, or in practices that affected the general moral welfare. No doubt the citizens of that day were more zealous in their efforts to exclude such people from their midst than are the people of modern Quincy.

#### TOWN HALL

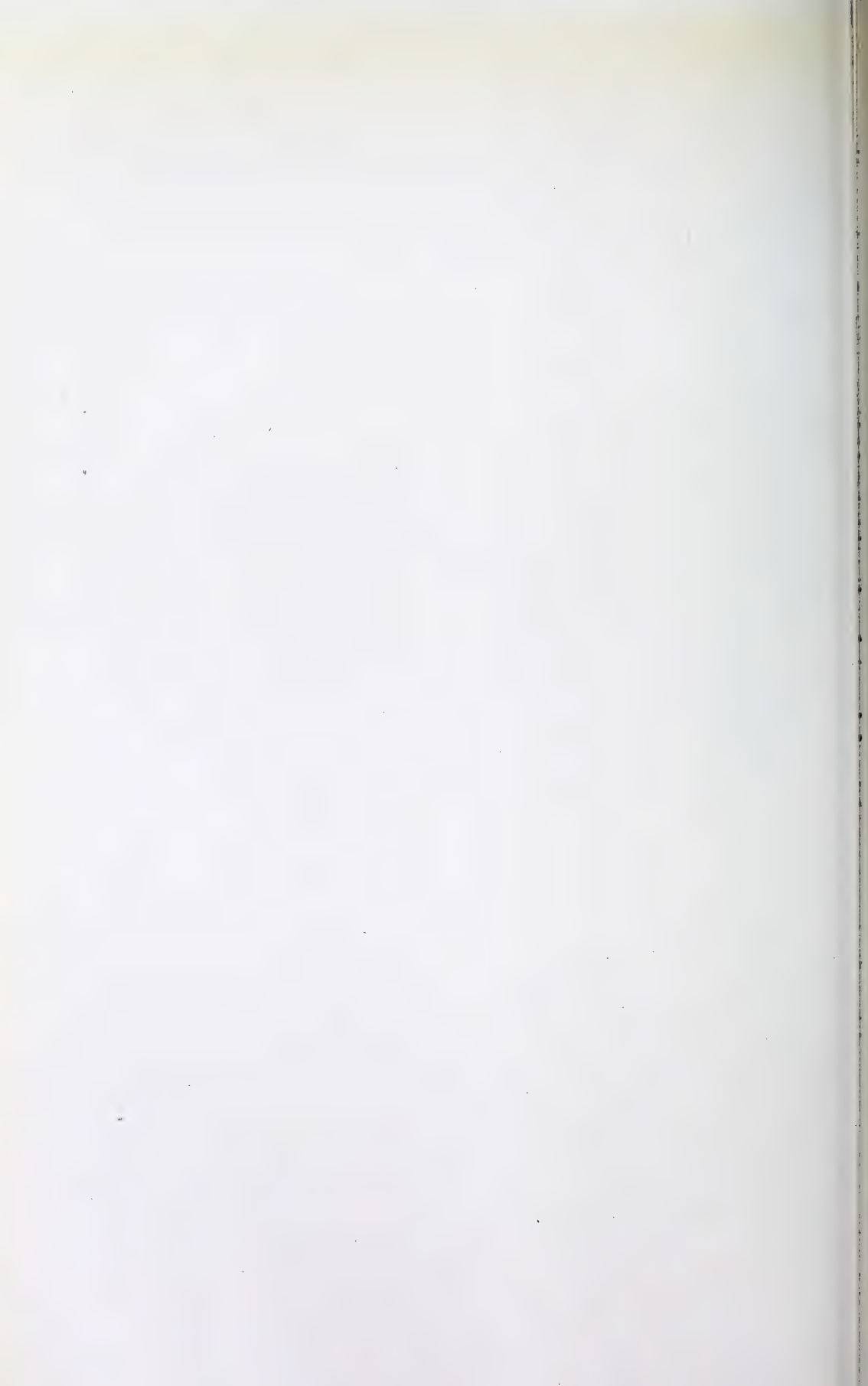
Not long after the town was incorporated and the local government organized, a building was erected for a grammar school with a hall for holding town meetings. It was destroyed by fire on December 30, 1815, and at the annual meeting on March 4, 1816, a committee was appointed to recommend a plan for a new structure. The report of the committee was as follows:

"Your committee are unanimously of the opinion that it will be expedient for the town to cause to be erected a building of sufficient dimensions to allow two school rooms on the lower floor, the second story to be reserved and conveniently arranged as a town hall for the inhabitants to meet in. Your committee were also requested to report on a site for said building, but not having had time to give this point suitable consideration, would have it referred to another committee and they be chosen by ballot."

The report was accepted and agreed to, and the second committee reported in favor of a building 30 by 55 feet, two stories high, "to be located on John Brinsler's lot next to the burying ground." They also reported that such a building would cost \$2,200, if built of wood, or \$3,600, if built of stone. Thomas Greenleaf, Benjamin Page, Thomas B. Adams, Edmund Billings and Josiah Adams were then appointed a committee to select a site on the training field. This



CITY HALL, QUINCY



action was reconsidered on June 24, 1816, and after several sites had been examined it was voted on the 16th of July to accept the Brinsler lot, which was accordingly purchased for \$339. The building was completed on July 21, 1817, at a cost of \$2,127.19.

In 1841 the question came before the annual meeting in March of building a new town house and it was voted to build it on land owned by Daniel French, provided the same could be purchased at a price not exceeding one thousand dollars. It seems that this was as far as the proposition went at that time, for on February 9, 1844, a movement was voted down in town meeting to purchase the Universalist Church and convert it into a town hall. At the same meeting a proposition to erect a stone building for town purposes was defeated. A committee was then chosen to investigate the subject and recommend a course to be pursued at an adjourned meeting. The committee, consisting of Solomon Willard, John Savil, Gershom Clements, John A. Green and Noah Curtis, reported in favor of a frame structure, the estimated cost of which was \$7,587, on a plan 50 by 85 feet, two stories in height.

The report was accepted and the treasurer was ordered to purchase the lots on the corner of Canal and Hancock streets, owned by Faxon & Willett, but the title was found to be defective. Daniel Baxter, Benjamin Page, James Newcomb, John Souther and George Veazie were then appointed a building committee, the proposition to erect a frame house was reconsidered and it was voted to build one of stone, on land to be bought of Daniel French. The building was completed in 1844, at a cost of \$19,115.93. In 1871 it was remodeled at a cost of \$6,478 and is now the Quincy City Hall. In his inaugural address in 1917, Mayor Joseph L. Whiton said:

"I find that there are seventeen department officials and boards, with their respective clerks, having offices in the basement of the City Hall. It seems incredible that a city of the size and importance of Quincy should require so many of its officials and boards to transact its business in a basement under such unhealthy conditions as exist in the basement of this hall. This condition of affairs should be remedied at once and other quarters provided for them. The reducing of the number of councilmen from twenty-three to nine will enable the council to transact its business in smaller quarters than formerly used. This will enable us to supply accommodations for some of these departments above the first floor of the hall. When these departments have been removed from the basement, the basement can be fitted up, made fireproof and equipped so as to be a very desirable place in which to preserve the records and archives of the city."

From this extract from the mayor's inaugural address it can be seen that the city has outgrown the capacity of its municipal building and it will be but a few years until the question of a new one, more in keeping with the progressive spirit of the city, will have to be affirmed.

Thomas Greenleaf, who was appointed chairman of the committee in 1816 to select a site for the town hall, was an important factor in the development of Quincy about that time. He was born in Boston and graduated at Harvard in 1790. In 1803 he took up his residence in Quincy and soon manifested an interest in town affairs. Besides his connection with the building of the town hall, he caused the first almshouse to be built, securing an appropriation of

\$2,000 for this purpose, and under his efficient business methods the cost of maintaining the town poor was reduced about one-half. He died in Quincy in 1854.

#### QUINCY GRANITE

Previous to the year 1825 little attention had been given to the value of the granite deposits of the town. In that year, on behalf of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, Gridley Briant bought a quarry in West Quincy for the purpose of taking out stone for the monument. This stone had already been examined and approved by Solomon Willard, and the quarry is still known as the "Bunker Hill Quarry." Before the opening of this quarry, the rough, glacial boulders which lay scattered about over the surface had alone been used for building purposes. King's Chapel in Boston was built of this kind of stone. Shortly after it was completed in 1852, a town meeting in Braintree voted to prohibit the removal of any more stone from the commons, because if the shipment of stone to Boston continued there would not be enough left for the town's own use. In 1803 Josiah Bemis, George Stearns and Michael Wild split a large stone with iron wedges. This opened the way for the working of the great granite deposits and Quincy granite is now known wherever stone is used for monumental or building purposes. The report of the Bureau of Statistics for 1915 gives returns from more than one hundred stone working concerns, having a combined capital of over two millions of dollars.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postmaster in Quincy was Richard Cranch, whose commission was dated April 1, 1795. Mr. Cranch, it will be remembered, was the man who selected the name of Quincy for the town, and the justice of the peace who issued his warrant for the first town meeting. Several times he represented Braintree in the General Court and was afterward a judge of the Court of Common Pleas. At the time of his appointment as postmaster the rates of letter postage varied from six cents for carrying a letter thirty miles or less to twenty-four cents for carrying one 450 miles or more. He served as postmaster until his death in 1811, and on January 1, 1812, Dr. Benjamin Vinton was appointed as his successor. During the period of his service, eastern and southern mails arrived and departed three times a week.

The present handsome postoffice building in Quincy was completed early in the spring of 1909 and was occupied on the first of March of that year. Its cost, exclusive of the site, was a little over seventy thousand dollars. The office is now a station of Metropolitan Boston. Besides the postmaster and his assistant, the office employs twenty-six carriers and fifteen clerks. There is also one rural carrier.

At the beginning of the year 1917 the other offices within the city limits were located at Atlantic, Squantum and Wollaston, all of them being branches of the Boston postoffice. Some forty years ago there were postoffices at West Quincy and Quincy Point, but they have been discontinued.

## CITIZENS GAS COMPANY

Early in 1860 Daniel P. Nye, F. M. Johnson and Eleazer Frederick applied to the Legislature for a charter to manufacture and sell gas to the town and people of Quincy. They and their associates were incorporated as "The Citizens Gas Light Company of Quincy," with power to own and hold real estate, manufacture gas and make contracts for the sale of the same to the municipality and its inhabitants. The next year the town agrees by vote to pay for gas for street lamps for any persons who would erect lamp posts at their own expense, the posts to be a certain distance apart. This plan was followed for a few years, but in 1874 it was decided that coal gas was too expensive for illuminating the town, and it was voted to use naphtha gas instead. In 1876 the gas company reduced its prices and the town returned to the use of coal gas. Several years later the gas lights were displaced by electricity and the gas is now used chiefly for cooking and lighting private buildings.

## INCORPORATED AS A CITY

Quincy was incorporated as a city by the act of May 17, 1888, Section 1 of which provides that "The inhabitants of the Town of Quincy shall, in case of the acceptance of this act by the voters of said town, as hereinafter provided, continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name of the City of Quincy, and as such shall have, exercise and enjoy all the rights, immunities, powers and privileges and shall be subject to all the duties and obligations now pertaining to and incumbent upon the said town as a municipal corporation."

The act authorized the division of the town into six wards and the election of members of a city council—five of the members to be elected as councilmen at large and one from each ward. The executive authority is vested in a mayor, and the management of the public schools in a school committee. It was also provided that the first city election should be held on the first Tuesday in December and that the municipal year should begin on the first Monday in January. The voters accepted the provisions of the act and on January 7, 1889, the city government of Quincy went into effect.

Following is a list of the mayors since the incorporation of the city, together with the year when each assumed the duties of the office: Charles H. Porter, 1889; Henry O. Fairbanks, 1891; William A. Hodges, 1894; C. F. Adams (2nd), 1896; Russell A. Sears, 1898; Harrison A. Keith, 1899; John O. Hall, 1900; Charles M. Bryant, 1902; James Thompson, 1905; William T. Shea, 1908; Eugene R. Stone, 1912; John L. Miller, 1914 (died the same year and the unexpired term filled by Joseph L. Whiton); Chester I. Campbell, 1915; Gustave B. Bates, 1916; Joseph L. Whiton, 1917.

## WATERWORKS

The first move toward supplying the Town of Quincy with water was made on May 3, 1883, when the governor approved an act of the Legislature incorporating William L. Faxon, John A. Gordon, John O. Holden, Charles H. Porter and their associates and successors as the "Quincy Water Company," with a

capital stock not to exceed \$250,000. By the provisions of the act the company was authorized to take the waters of Town Brook, with all the other rights and privileges to which such corporations are entitled under the laws of Massachusetts. It was also provided in the act of incorporation that the Town of Quincy might purchase the franchise and property of the company, at a price to be mutually agreed upon, when two-thirds of the legal voters of the town gave their assent.

In June, 1885, the company was given the right to supply the Town of Milton with water, and on June 11, 1891, two years after the incorporation of Quincy as a city, the Legislature, conferred upon the municipality the right to take the waters of Blue Hill River and certain of its tributaries as a water supply, and to issue bonds in any sum not exceeding \$400,000 for the purpose of purchasing and developing the plant of the Quincy Water Company. The works were then purchased by the city and on June 13, 1892, another act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the mayor to appoint a board of water commissioners of three members. The same act increased the borrowing power of the city to not more than \$700,000, to be known as the "Quincy Water Loan."

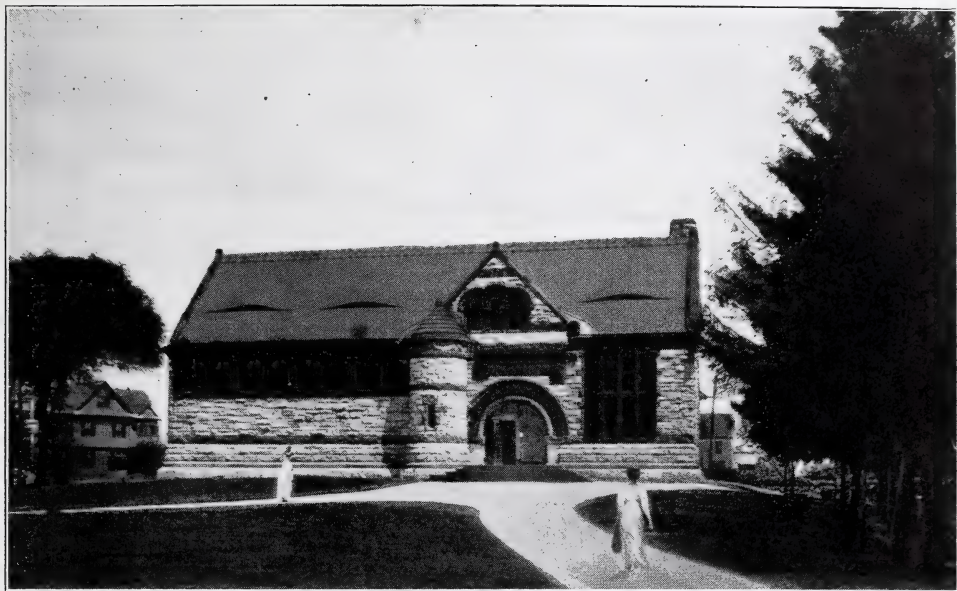
At the close of the year 1916 the Quincy waterworks system embraced nearly one hundred and forty miles of mains, 1,119 hydrants, with 8,872 meters in use. The receipts from water rates for the year amounted to \$155,624.67 and the expense of maintenance was \$12,968.29. About three miles of additional mains were laid in 1916 and forty-one new hydrants installed, at a cost of nearly twenty-nine thousand dollars.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Almost immediately after the town was incorporated in 1792, the citizens met and organized a Fire Association. Buckets, ladders and fire hooks were purchased and for many years this was the only fire department of which Quincy could boast. In 1812 a fund was raised by subscription and a hand engine was purchased. It was one of the kind that had to be filled with buckets and at a fire a line would be formed, the buckets passed from hand to hand to keep the engine supplied with water, while the firemen worked the pump. In cases where the supply of water was some distance from the fire, the engine would be drawn to the pond or rivers for a supply and then back to the fire, repeating the process until the fire was extinguished or the building burned down—more frequently the latter. The engine was called the "Columbia" and was stationed on Hancock Street. A little later another engine of the same type was purchased and named the "Adams." It was kept on School Street.

In 1826 a law was passed exempting firemen from military duty. This stimulated interest in the fire companies of Quincy and a number offered their services as volunteers. The first suction engine—the "Niagara"—was purchased in 1840. Three more and a hook and ladder outfit were purchased in 1844. The new engines were named the "Vulture," which was located at the Point; the "Tiger," stationed at South Quincy; and the "Granite," in West Quincy.

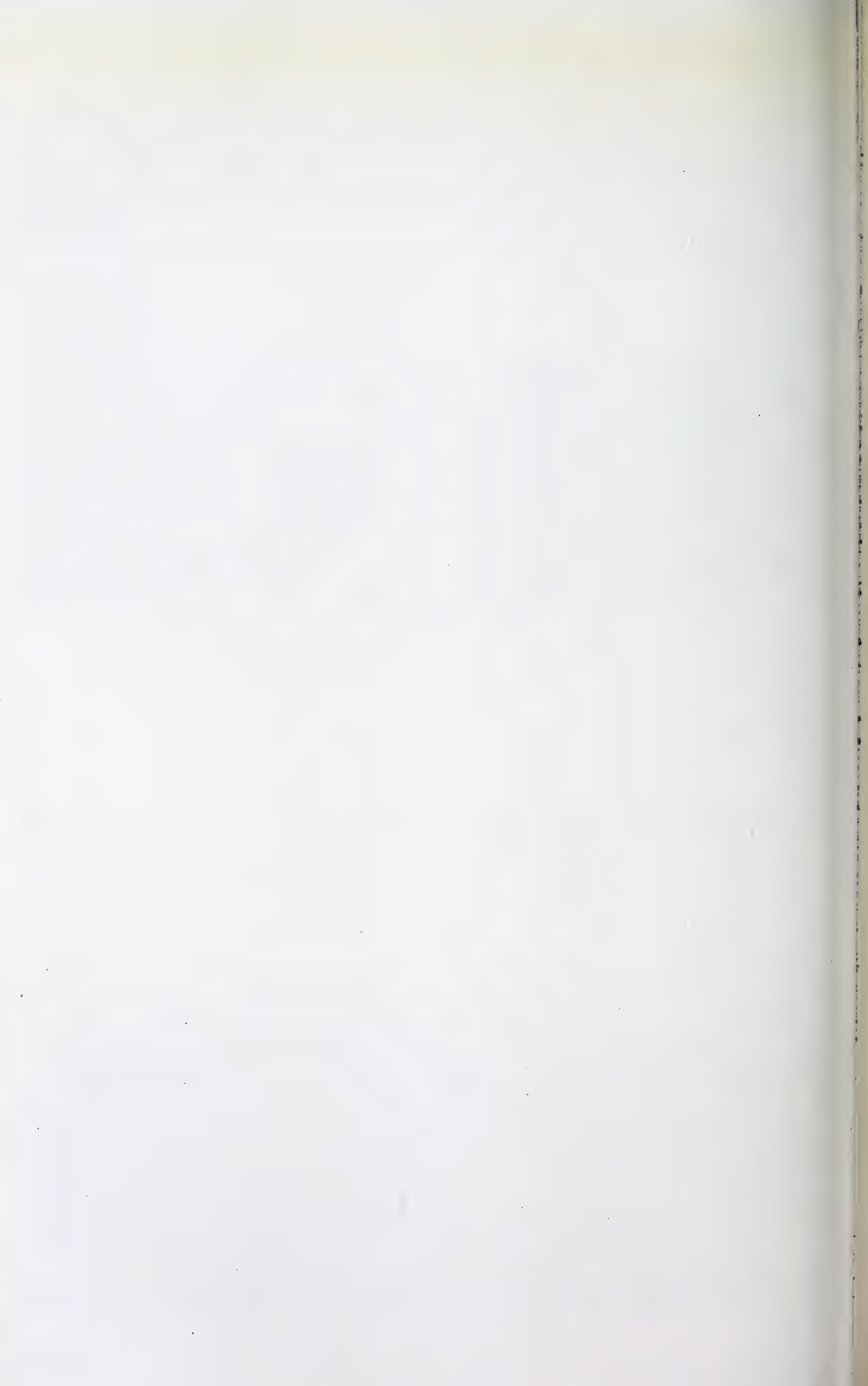
By the act of April 8, 1853, the town was authorized to establish a fire department, but little change was made for nearly twenty years. In 1874 a steam pump was bought, the town paying \$350 and the balance being raised by subscription. Two years later a reservoir was built at Wollaston Heights in order



PUBLIC LIBRARY, QUINCY



POSTOFFICE, QUINCY



to store a volume of water to be used in case of fire. From that time additions were made to the department at intervals, until it reached its present state of efficiency.

The Quincy fire department now has six stations, viz.: Central, Wollaston, Atlantic, West Quincy, Quincy Point and Hough's Neck. According to the report of Faxon Billings, chief of the department for the year 1916, the equipment of these stations was then as follows: Central, one steam fire engine and tractor, one auto combination ladder truck, two auto combination hose trucks, one chief's car, two spare hose wagons and one bobsled. Wollaston, one combination ladder truck and one combination hose wagon, both drawn by horses. Atlantic, one auto combination hose truck. West Quincy, one ladder truck and one hose wagon, both drawn by horses. Quincy Point, one combination hose wagon drawn by horses. Hough's Neck, one combination hose wagon, horse drawn. The value of all the apparatus, including horses, was estimated at \$82,600.

The department consists of a chief, three assistant chiefs, one captain, one lieutenant, the superintendent of fire alarm system, and thirty-five permanent men. During the year 1916 the department responded to 376 alarms.

#### MODERN QUINCY

According to the United States census of 1910, the population of Quincy was then 32,642. In 1915 the state census reported 40,674, a gain of 8,032 in five years. The city has four banks, two daily newspapers (the Patriot-Ledger and the Telegram), twenty-five churches of different denominations, seventeen public school buildings, a number of well stocked stores, and more than one hundred and fifty prosperous manufacturing establishments. Quincy is located on the line of the Boston & Plymouth division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system, only eight miles from Boston, and is connected with the adjoining towns by electric railway lines. The assessed valuation of property in 1916, as reported by the board of assessors, was \$62,789,130, and in his annual report the city treasurer announced a municipal indebtedness of \$1,570,521.15—nearly forty dollars in assets for every dollar of liabilities.

#### CITY GOVERNMENT

Following is a list of the principal city officials at the commencement of the year 1917: Joseph L. Whiton, mayor; Emery L. Crane, clerk; Walter E. Piper, treasurer; Charles A. Hadlock, collector of taxes; Moses L. Brown, commissioner of public works; William Campbell, overseer of the poor; Frederick E. Tupper, Charles A. McFarland and Michael T. Sullivan, assessors; James H. Slade, Philip R. Guinan and Alexander A. Robertson, Jr., park commissioners; Daniel R. McKay, chief of police; Faxon Billings, chief of the fire department; Walter H. Buchan, Dr. Michael T. Sweeney and Tupper G. Miller, board of health.

The city council, the legislative branch of the government, was composed of Alfred H. Richards (president), Thomas Griffin, Thomas J. McGrath, Russell A. Sears, John D. Smith, Lewis Bass, William A. Bradford, Alexander Falconer and Rodney P. Gallagher. Regular meetings of the council are held on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month.

## CHAPTER XXIX

### THE TOWN OF RANDOLPH

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—CIVIC HISTORY—PETITION FOR DIVISION OF BRAINTREE—  
THE REMONSTRANCE—ACT OF INCORPORATION—THE TOWN NAME—FIRST TOWN  
MEETINGS—DIVISION OF RANDOLPH—TOWN HALL—FIRE DEPARTMENT—WATER-  
WORKS—RANDOLPH TODAY—ROSTER OF TOWN OFFICERS IN 1917.

Randolph lies in the southeastern portion of Norfolk County. On the north it is bounded by the Town of Milton and the City of Quincy; on the east by Braintree; on the southeast by Holbrook; and on the west by Canton and Stoughton. Great Pond lies on the line between Randolph and Braintree, and Ponkapoag Pond on the line between Randolph and Canton. The Blue Hill or Monaticquot River forms the northern boundary line, and there are several small streams flowing into Great Pond. The surface is generally rolling, but in the valleys are fertile farms and fine orchards, giving the town an air of thrift and prosperity.

#### CIVIC HISTORY

Randolph has been called the daughter of Braintree and the mother of Holbrook. When Braintree was incorporated in 1640 it embraced the present towns of Braintree, Quincy, Randolph and Holbrook. Fifty years later the population numbered nearly three thousand. The town was then divided into three precincts—North, South and Middle. The North Precinct included practically what is now the City of Quincy; the Middle Precinct, the present Town of Braintree; and the South Precinct, the present towns of Randolph and Holbrook. Quincy was set off as a town on February 22, 1792, and immediately afterward the inhabitants of the South Precinct began to insist upon a similar privilege. At a meeting held at the South Precinct meeting house on March 15, 1792, Dr. Ephraim Wales, Nathaniel Niles, Joseph White, Samuel Bass, Seth Turner and Samuel Niles were appointed a committee, "with discretionary power," to take the necessary steps to effect a separation between the precinct and the Town of Braintree, and to "sustain the claims of the South Parish for a division before the General Court, or doing anything they may think proper for the purpose aforesaid."

At another meeting on June 15, 1792, for which the inhabitants of the precinct had been specially warned, it was voted that, "Whereas a Petition has been presented to the Generall Court for a division of the Town of Braintree, by a large number of Signers Hon. Samuel Niles, Dr. Ephraim Wales, Samuel Bass, Col. Seth Turner, Seth Mann, Joseph White and Lieut. Nathaniel Niles be

chose a committee with discretionary Powers to sustane the Aforesaid petition until the passage of it be Granted."

The Town of Braintree—or rather the Middle Precinct—opposed the division of the town, and a counter petition was presented to the General Court. As these petitions throw considerable light upon the situation as it then existed, they are reproduced in full.

## PETITION FOR DIVISION

"To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Senate and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> House of Representatives in General Court assembled:

"The Petition of the Inhabitants of the South Precinct of Braintree respectfully shews That your Petitioners from long Experience have found the inconvenience of being Connected with the other parts of the Town of Braintree, As the town is very long and narrow—the Centre of said South Precinct is more than five miles distant from the Middle Precinct meeting house, which is the usual and most convenient place of holding Town Meetings while the town is in its present form, which makes it necessary that nearly one half of your Petitioners should travel five miles and Upwards to attend every Town Meeting, or otherwise which is frequently the case: They are obliged to submit to the Centre of the Town's transacting the whole of the Business which they do as your Petitioners think with a very Partial Eye to their own Interests.

"And as Travelling is often very bad at March and April meetings it is difficult & Many times impossible for Elderly & Infirm people to improve the Privileges they might otherwise do & which every free man wishes to Enjoy. Many other Disadvantages peculiar to your Petitioners extreem situation in the Town will be made more fully to appear should your Honors grant them a hearing

"And your Petitioners wish further to sugest that the South Precinct aforesaid in its present form is very incommodious & Irregular and was owing originaly to a Cause which now ceases to exist, Viz. When the Division of the Middle and South Precinct was first Proposed the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Niles was Minister of Both in One & ownèd a large farm which incircled several other farms that lay within the Bounds of the proposed South Precinct. But the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Niles being willing his own farm should lye within the limits of his own parish opposed the South Parish going off unless he might be thus Gratified and as he was then a man of much Influence your Petitioners were obliged to relinquish said farms or continue very much to their Disadvantage a part of his parish & the former of the two evils they submitted to—Now circumstances relative to said farms are far different. A considerable part of M<sup>r</sup> Nile's farm is now owned by Residents of the South Precinct & the Proprietors of the other farms aforesaid are desirous of improving the advantages they ought long since to have enjoyed by joining the South Precinct as they are much nearer to that meeting than their own. Your petitioners wish therefore to be set off from the other Parts of the Town of Braintree in connection with the proprietors of the aforesaid farms as a separate town: and they as in duty bound shall ever pray."

The petition was signed by Ephraim Wales, Seth Turner, Levi Thayer, Ebenezer Alden, John Stetson, Richard Belcher, Nathaniel Niles, Benjamin Man.

Seth Man, Joseph White, "and one hundred and ten others," and on the back of the original in the state archives is the indorsement: "In the House of Representatives Jan<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1792. Read & Committed to the Standing Committee on Incorporations to consider report. Sent up for concurrence." Signed by D. Cobb, speaker. Then follows a similar indorsement, signed by Samuel Phillips as president of the senate, showing the concurrence by that body on January 18, 1792.

#### THE REMONSTRANCE

"We the Subscribers Inhabitants of the now North Precinct in Braintree being Deeply imprest with the Disagreeable Situation of this once Respectable Town of Braintree A Town which has Produced some of the First characters among man kind and even those who have arisen to Exalted Stations amongst the Rulers of our Country. The old North Precinct are Already got off from us and Incorporated into a Town by the Name of Quincy and our Brethren of the South Precinct are now Petitioning the General Court to be set off and incorporated into a Town by Some other Name should the Prayer of their Petition be Granted there will be but a small Part of their old Town of Braintree left to bare up the Name it appears to us that the Reasons Why our Brethren in the South Precinct are aiming to git off from us is that they Suppose the Number of Inhabitants in this Now North Precinct will be Greater than in the South Precinct & by that means they will be Exposed to have Voted from them those Privilege which they have a Just right to. Now to Ease the minds of our Brethren in that Respect We the Subscribers do hereby upon our Words and Honour Which in the Nature of the thing is the Strongest Obligation that we can lay our Selves under Engage that we Will at All times as far as we are Able prevent their having Just Cause of Complaint in that Respect & We do hereby Declare that if they will Withdraw their Petition Which we think will be to their Advatage as Well as ours and Equally so that We are Willing that the meetings Shall be held Alternately & that our Brethren of the said South Precinct shall have Every advantage from the Suffrages of the People at Large if we Continue together Without Seperation Which they Shall have any just reason to Expect & at the same time that We May Experience the same benevolence from then & that We may Continue together in Brotherly Love & Unity is the Sincere and Hearty Wish of Us the Subscribers."

This remonstrance was signed by James Faxon, Elisha French, Adam Hobart, Jonathan Thayer, Abraham Thayer, William Allen, Nehemiah Hayden, Samuel Holbrook, and "sixty-three other residents of the North Precinct," but it bears no evidence that it was ever seriously considered by the General Court. The advocates of division were well organized and presented their cause with such force that they finally won their object through the passage of the following

#### ACT OF INCORPORATION

"An Act for incorporating the South Precinct of the Town of Braintree, in the County of Suffolk, into a separate Town by the name of Randolph.

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in

General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the lands comprised within the South Precinct in Braintree, as the same is now bounded, with the inhabitants dwelling thereon, be, and they hereby are, incorporated into a town by the name of Randolph; and the said Town of Randolph is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities to which towns within this Commonwealth are, or may be, entitled, agreeably to the Constitution and Laws of the said Commonwealth."

"Section 2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the inhabitants of the said Town of Randolph shall pay all the arrears of taxes which have been assessed upon them by the Town of Braintree, and shall support any poor person or persons who have heretofore been, or now are, inhabitants of that part of Braintree which is hereby incorporated and are or may become chargeable, and who shall not have obtained a settlement elsewhere when they may become chargeable; and such poor person or persons may be returned to the Town of Randolph, in the same way and manner that paupers may, by law, be returned to the town or district to which they belong. And the inhabitants of the said Town of Randolph shall pay their proportion of all debts now due from the Town of Braintree, and shall be entitled to receive their proportion of all debts due to the said Town of Braintree; and also their proportionable part of all other property of the said Town of Braintree, of what kind and description soever: Provided always, That the lands belonging to the said Town of Braintree, for the purpose of maintaining schools, shall be divided between the said Town of Braintree and the said Town of Randolph, in the same proportion as they were respectively assessed for the payment of the last state tax.

"Section 3. And be it further enacted, That any of the inhabitants now dwelling within the bounds of the said Town of Randolph, who have remonstrated against the division of the Town of Braintree, and who may be desirous of belonging to said Town of Braintree, shall, at any time within six months from the passing of this act, by returning their names to the Secretary's Office, and signifying their desire of belonging to said Braintree, have that privilege, and shall, with their polls and estates, belong to and be a part of said Braintree, by paying their proportion of all taxes which shall have been laid on said town of Randolph, previously to their thus returning their names, as they would by law have been holden to pay had they continued to be a part of the Town of Randolph.

"Section 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Samuel Niles, Esq., be and he is hereby authorized to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant of the said town of Randolph, requiring him to warn and give notice to the inhabitants of the said town, to assemble and meet at some suitable time and place in the said Town of Randolph, as soon as conveniently may be, to choose all such officers as towns are required to choose at their annual town meeting in the month of March or April annually."

This bill passed the House on March 5, 1793, and was sent to the Senate, which passed it the next day. On the 9th it was approved by Gov. John Hancock, and from that day the Town of Randolph dates its corporate existence. An indorsement attached to the original copy of the act in the state archives shows that Levi and Timothy Thayer, Abraham Jones, Noah and Samuel Chees-

man, claimed the privilege extended by Section 3 and remained inhabitants of Braintree.

#### THE TOWN NAME

The town was named for Peyton Randolph, who was born in Virginia in 1723, the second son of Sir John Randolph. After graduating at William and Mary's College he studied law in London and at the age of twenty-five was appointed royal attorney for Virginia. Soon after this he was elected a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and was appointed chairman of a committee to revise the laws of the colony. In 1764 he framed the remonstrance of the House of Burgesses against the passage of the Stamp Act. He was the president of the First Continental Congress, which met at Philadelphia on September 5, 1774, and was again chosen for that position when Congress reassembled at Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. Mr. Randolph died of apoplexy at Philadelphia on October 22, 1775. The naming of this Norfolk County town in his honor was a fitting tribute to one who devoted his life to the interests of the American colonists.

#### FIRST TOWN MEETINGS

Pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 4 of the organic act, Samuel Niles issued his warrant for a town meeting to be held on Monday, April 1, 1793. Dr. Ephraim Wales was chosen moderator, after which the meeting proceeded to elect the following town officers: Micah White, Jr., Dr. Ebenezer Alden and Joseph White, Jr., selectmen; Samuel Bass, clerk and treasurer. Samuel Bass, Nathaniel Niles and Seth Turner were appointed a committee to settle with the Town of Braintree.

At a second meeting held on Thursday, May 16, 1793, Samuel Bass was elected representative to the General Court, and at the annual meeting in 1794 all the town officers chosen the preceding year were reelected. At the same time it was voted "That the committee appointed to settle with Braintree shall apply for a division of powder and balls, and in case there is a deficiency the selectmen are requested to procure more." The selectmen were also requested to "build a powder house in some suitable place, according to their discretion."

#### DIVISION OF RANDOLPH

When the town was first established in 1793, it extended southward to the county line. Through a narrow valley running north and south ran a narrow riverbed, in which flowed the Cochato River. Two villages grew up on roads about a mile apart, the one on the east side of the Cochato being known as East Randolph, and the other as West Randolph. When the railroad now known as the Boston & Middleboro division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford system was built, the station on the east side was given the name of "Randolph." A few years later the railroad from Boston to Taunton was built down the west side of the valley, passing through West Randolph. Some of the citizens entertained a hope that the two villages would grow together, but the hope was never

realized. In 1872 East Randolph was set off as the Town of Holbrook (see Chapter XIX) and the name of the railroad station was changed to correspond to that of the new town. The word "West" was then dropped from the other village, which has since been merely known as "Randolph."

#### TOWN HALL

Randolph's town hall, which was the gift of Amasa Stetson, was dedicated in 1842. It is a substantial frame structure, the cost of which was about ten thousand dollars, and is centrally located. Amasa Stetson was born in Randolph in March, 1769, while the town was still a part of Braintree. He learned the trade of shoemaker, went to Boston, where he became associated with his brother Samuel in the shoe business and thus laid the foundation of a large fortune. He died on August 2, 1844, leaving a fortune of over half a million dollars and no children. The lower story of the town hall was used for some time for high school purposes. A few years ago the building, called "Stetson Hall," in honor of the donor, was thoroughly remodeled. Mr. Stetson also left the town a fund of ten thousand dollars for educational purposes. It is known as the "Stetson School Fund," and the income is used for the support of the public schools. In 1916 the trustees of the fund reported the amount of the fund as being \$19,488.63, invested in interest bearing bonds and bank stock.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Soon after the town was incorporated a fire company was organized and for many years the old hand engines—"Fire-King," "Independence" and "Fearless"—responded to fire alarms with as much "pomp and circumstance" as the more efficient fire departments of modern days. When Holbrook was set off in 1872, the question of a better fire department came up in the town meetings, and during the next decade great improvements in the service were made by the purchase of two steam fire engines, a hook and ladder truck and two hose wagons.

In 1915 a new combination auto fire truck was purchased by the town and placed in commission by the board of fire engineers. On July 30, 1916, the old department was disbanded and two days later was reorganized on the basis of sixteen men to be known as "Combination Company No. 1"; nine men as "Hose Company No. 1"; six men as "Hose Company No. 2"; eight men as "Hook and Ladder Company No. 1"; and an engineer and stoker for "Steamer No. 1." The cost of the department for the year 1916 was \$1,860. The board of engineers was then composed of Richard F. Forrest, James H. Meany, George Stetson and M. F. Sullivan.

#### WATERWORKS

By an act of the Legislature, approved May 8, 1885, the towns of Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook were authorized to supply themselves with water from Great Pond, severally or jointly, and to be united in the construction of buildings, etc. Braintree did not accept the provisions of the act, but Randolph and

Holbrook each issued bonds to the amount of \$100,000 (the maximum authorized by the act) and established a joint system of waterworks, which were completed in the summer of 1886. During the year 1916, according to the report of the water commissioners, the cost of maintenance was \$9,898.91, which included \$1,232 for interest on outstanding bonds and \$2,303.49 for extension of the mains to new districts. The receipts for the year amounted to \$12,953. The amount of water consumed during the year was 146,720,000 gallons.

After the first issue of bonds other issues were authorized by the Legislature, with the stipulation that a sinking fund should be established for their redemption when due. At the close of the year 1916 the amount of bonds outstanding was \$107,200, and there was then in the sinking fund \$74,286.28 and \$2,385.14 in cash in the hands of the town treasurer, leaving a net indebtedness of \$30,528.58. As the last of the bonds do not fall due until July 1, 1926, it is evident that Randolph's waterworks will be paid for according to the original plan.

#### RANDOLPH TODAY

Of the twenty-eight towns in Norfolk County, Randolph in 1915 stood fourteenth in population and eighteenth in the assessed valuation of property. The number of inhabitants, according to the state census, was then 4,734, a gain of 433 since the United States census of 1910. The assessed valuation of property was \$3,252,912. In 1916 the assessors reduced the valuation to \$2,879,100, merely as a matter of equalization.

The town has two banks, five public school buildings, eighteen teachers in the public schools, churches of various denominations, electric light, some manufacturing concerns, though this line of business is not as great as in the years immediately following the Civil war, a fine public library, lodges of the leading fraternal orders, mercantile establishments in keeping with the demands of the town, steam and electric railway transportation, a weekly newspaper (the News), and a money order postoffice which has one rural route that supplies daily mail to the surrounding country. The visitor to Randolph cannot fail to be impressed with the air of neatness that attaches to the many cozy homes—the chief charm of the town.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1917

Following is a list of the principal town officials at the beginning of the year 1917: James H. Dunphy, Michael E. Clark and Jeremiah J. Desmond, selectmen and overseers of the poor; Arthur W. Alden, Michael E. Clark and James H. Dunphy, assessors; Patrick H. McLaughlin, clerk and treasurer; Richard F. Forrest, William F. Barrett and John B. McNeil, water commissioners; Michael F. Cunningham, John B. Wren and John K. Willard, auditors; Jeremiah J. Desmond, tax collector; Edward Long, George V. Higgins and Edmund K. Belcher, school committee; Joseph Belcher, representative to the General Court; Frank J. Donahue, Michael F. Sullivan, John J. Madigan, Frank W. Harris, Fred O. Evans and Fred Vye, constables; Frank M. Condon, Patrick H. McLaughlin, H. F. Howard and John H. Field, registrars of voters.

## CHAPTER XXX

### THE TOWN OF SHARON

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—TOPOGRAPHY—EARLY HISTORY—PETITION FOR A PRECINCT—THE ANSWER—FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR—DISTRICT OF STOUGHTONHAM—FIRST DISTRICT OFFICERS—THE FIRST CANNON—BUNKER HILL—THE TOWN OF SHARON—POSTOFFICES—TOWN HALL—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—MODERN SHARON—TOWN OFFICERS.

The Town of Sharon is situated in the southern part of the county, extending southward to the county line. On the north it is bounded by the towns of Norwood and Walpole; on the east by Canton and Stoughton; on the south by Bristol County; and on the west by Foxboro. The Neponset River just touches the northeast corner, and Traphole Brook forms a little of the boundary line between Sharon and Norwood.

#### TOPOGRAPHY

The surface of Sharon is varied. Moose Hill, in the western part is the highest elevation. Its summit is said to be about six hundred feet above the level of the sea. It received its name from the fact that in early days it was a favorite haunt of the moose. Only a few years before the beginning of the Revolution deer reeves were elected by the people of Stoughton (of which Sharon was then a part) for the protection of the moose and deer that inhabited the forests about this hill. A winding road leads to the top of the hill, where in the days immediately preceding the Revolution was lighted "the signal fires of liberty." In later years an observatory was built there. From the observatory can be seen Mount Wachusett, the hills of New Hampshire and Rhode Island, the Blue Hills of Milton, and the Neponset Valley is spread out like a panorama.

One can readily infer how Rattlesnake Hill, a high, rocky ridge in the southeastern part of the town, received its name. The slopes of this ridge are covered with a growth of timber that affords an excellent place of abode for the serpent that gave name to the elevation. The road to North Easton passes over this ridge.

There are a number of smaller hills, such as Bald Hill, Bluff Head and Bullard's Hill. From the southern part of Bullard's Hill a fine view of the Village of Sharon may be seen. Along the foot of the hill runs the little brook, fed by springs, called by the Indians Maskwonicut, but to which the white settlers gave the name of Puffer's Brook.

Near the center of the town is Lake Massapoag, a pretty body of water, bearing an Indian name signifying "Great Water." About thirty or forty years

ago the lake was stocked with fish—black bass, white perch, land-locked salmon, etc.—and along its shores have been built quite a number of summer residences by people from Boston, who come from the city during the hot weather to enjoy the scenery and rest.

In the western part is Wolomolopoag Pond, which in the Indian language means “deep, pleasant water.” The outlet of this pond flows in a southerly direction and on its banks was built the first house in what is now the Town of Sharon. It was built by some one about 1660 or a few years earlier, and being located on the old Boston and Bristol post road was occupied by Captain Billings as a tavern in 1675. The pond above mentioned is sometimes called Billings’ Pond. On the southern boundary lies Wilbur Pond—also known as Leach’s Reservoir.

In the eastern part of the town are some good granite quarries, and in early days considerable quantities of bog iron ore were obtained here.

#### EARLY HISTORY

When the Town of Stoughton was incorporated in December, 1726, it included all the territory south of the Blue Hills and extended from Readville to the south line of Suffolk (now Norfolk) County. The west line of Stoughton was nearly twenty miles long, and the average width of the town from east to west was about ten miles. In this large town was included the present Town of Sharon. The colonial laws of that period required the towns to support churches and the people to attend public worship on Sunday. Stoughton was so large that it was inconvenient for many of the people to attend the church supported by the town, which was located at Canton Corner, hence those living adjacent to other towns attended worship where it was most convenient. After some ten or twelve years, the people living about Lake Massapoag decided to ask the General Court to establish a town or precinct for their benefit, and the result of their agitation was the following

#### PETITION

“To His Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esqr. Captain-General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England—and the Honourable His Majesties Council & House of Representatives of ye General Court assembled in Boston on ye Eighth day of June 1739.

“The petition of John Hixson and Benjamin Johnson committee to Prefer a petition to this Court in behalfe of ye subscribers Inhabitants of ye Southerly part of Stoughton humbly sheweth that Whereas by the Providence of the All Disposing God our lots are fallen to us at so greate a Distance from the Publick Worship of God in ye North part of ye sayd town that your Petitioners cannot ever without greate difficulty attend the Publick worship of God. Wherefore we have petitioned the Town once and Again to be eased of the greate Difficultyes we now labor under but have been by them rejected Notwithstanding the greate length of way which some of your Petitioners live from ye Publick Worship in ye sayd North Part about eight or nine miles And in Consideration of our greate Duty to attend ye Publick Worship of God not only Our selves but by our

families and Children which by the Blessing of God are greatly increased Therefore your Petitioners have of late Petitioned this Honourable Court to be sett off a seperate town or Precinct, but this Honourable Court did not see Cause to grant ye Petition. The reason as we Humbly conceive was the answers to the Petition which were wrong & erroneous.

"Therefore your Petitioners humbly Pray this Honourable Court to see with your own Eyes by sending a Committee to view ye circumstances at the charge & cost of ye Petitioners that this Honourable Court may be rightly Informed & see the Unjust proceedings of the Honourable respondents & their fallacious answers to our former petitions & as your Petitioners are Obligated by Conscience and Law to attend the Worship of God they have by a free Contribution maintained preaching amongst them selves for a Considerable time Notwithstanding they have alsoe payed their proportional Part to ye North Part where they can have but little or none advantage. And we would beg leave to Inform this Honourable Court that since we have had preaching amongst us it has encouraged some well minded Persons to come & Settle within the limitts herein Petitioned & if it should Please the Honourable Court to Grant our Petition it would be a greate encouragement to a greate many more if your Petitioners were in a Capacity to have the Ordinances of God administered amongst them & your Petitioners having had some Experience by their Having maintained preaching amongst them selves they look on them selves as able to Maintain the Worship of God. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray this Honourable Court that they would please send a Committee to view our Circumstances that so your Petitioners may be put into a Capacity that they may have the ordinances of the Saviour Settled amongst them in a regular Order by setting them off as a district and seperate Town or Precinct viz:

(Here follows a description of the boundary lines including the present towns of Sharon and Foxboro, after which the petition continues:)

"We humbly beg leave here to say that what we now offer in Respect to our being sett off is in sincerity for the promoting of the Worship of God and Religion in its purity amongst us. Wherefore we pray Your Excellency & Honours would be pleased to hear our request and grant our petition and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

The signers of this petition, in the order in which their names appear, were as follows: Benjamin Estey, Timothy Tolman, Isaac Cumings, John Smith, William Colwell, Samuel Cumings, William Richards, Samuel Estey, Samuel Dwelly, Nathaniel Coney, Pelatiah Whittemore, Eleazer Puffer, Joseph Ingraham, Samuel Lovel, Matthias Puffer, Abraham Chandler, Ebenezer Estey, William Webb, Mahew Tupper, Stephen Holland, Benjamin Perry, Joshua Johnson, Josiah Perry, Eliakim Perry, John Noyes, Eleazer Hawes, Job Swift, Jacob Estey, Daniel Richards, Joshua Whittemore, Ebenezer Hewins, Edward Belcher, Jeremiah Belcher, Matthew Hobbs, Clifford Belcher, Ephraim Payson, Samuel Bird, Thomas Randall, Thomas Rogers, Ebenezer Capen, William Wood and Nathan Clark.

#### THE ANSWER

To this petition the inhabitants of the north part of Stoughton prepared a response, in which they said: "The Petitioners have used a great deal of Craft

in the course they have pursued, in as much as the Town now owes the minister about eighty pounds (£80) & the town has just layed out nearly one hundred pounds (£100) in building a Road for the petitioners to go to Meeting & now they have built a Church near their own Doors & ask to be set off as Town or Precinct."

The General Court appointed a committee as asked for in the petition, and after visiting the territory the committee unanimously reported in favor of granting the prayer of the petitioners. A bill to that effect passed both branches of the General Court and it was approved by the governor on July 2, 1740. At a meeting of the inhabitants held soon afterward, John Hixson, Ephraim Payson and Daniel Richards were elected a committee to manage the affairs of the precinct, and Ebenezer Hewins was chosen treasurer. On January 5, 1742, Rev. Philip Curtis was called to the pastorate of the Second Precinct, and the meeting house mentioned in the petition was completed in 1744.

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

In this conflict quite a number of the citizens of the Second Precinct volunteered as members of the company commanded by Capt. Elkanah Billings. Among them were some who signed the petition asking for the establishment of the precinct, notably Samuel Cumings, Nathan Clark, Mayhew Tupper and Benjamin Estey. Samuel Billings was lieutenant of the company; Eleazer Robbins, ensign; Elijah Billings, Timothy Morse and Ebenezer Billings, sergeants; Daniel Morse, Benjamin Rhoads and William Savage, corporals; Eleazer Fisher, clerk; Ebenezer Bullard, drummer; and Seth Lane, fifer. The company served in Colonel Miller's regiment about Crown Point, Ticonderoga and Fort William Henry.

Capt. Ebenezer Mann of this precinct raised a company, most of the members of which came from Wrentham. The volunteers from Sharon fought side by side with the British regulars and acquitted themselves in such a manner that the precinct afterward profited by their services. The war closed in 1763 and not long after that the inhabitants of the Second Precinct decided to ask the General Court to be set off as a separate town, or at least to be made a district, whereby they would enjoy greater civil and political privileges.

#### DISTRICT OF STOUGHTONHAM

Early in the year 1765 Joseph Hewins, Jr., Jeremiah Fuller and William Richards were appointed a committee to present a petition to the General Court asking that the Second Precinct of Stoughton be made a separate town or district, and this committee emphasized the services of the men who went out from the precinct in the French and Indian war as an argument why the petition should be granted. It does not appear that the Town of Stoughton offered any serious objections and on June 21, 1765, the following act was passed:

#### "ANNO REGNI REGIS GEORGII TERTII QUINTO

"An Act for incorporation the Second Precinct in the Town of Stoughton, in the County of Suffolk (as it now is), into a District by the name of Stoughtonham.

"Whereas, the inhabitants of the Second Precinct in Stoughton labor under great difficulties, by reason of their distance from the place where town meetings are held in said town:

"Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives, That the Second Precinct in the Town of Stoughton, by the same bounds and limits which the said Second Precinct now have, be, and hereby are, incorporated into a separate district by the name of Stoughtonham; and that the inhabitants thereof be vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of any town within this province do, or by law ought to enjoy—excepting only the privilege of sending a representative to the General Assembly—and that the inhabitants of said district shall have liberty, from time to time, to join with the Town of Stoughton in the choice of a representative," etc.

#### FIRST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon him by the above mentioned act, Joseph Hewins, justice of the peace, issued his warrant to Richard Hixson, as one of the principal inhabitants of the district, to notify and warn the legal voters of the district to meet on July 8, 1765, for the purpose of electing such officers as by law the district was entitled to choose. At the appointed time Daniel Richards, Job Swift and Thomas Randall were elected selectmen and assessors, and Daniel Richards, clerk and treasurer.

The district was now in a condition to manage its own affairs, take care of its own poor, divide the school money with the Town of Stoughton, and a settlement with that town was effected without trouble or ill feeling.

#### THE FIRST CANNON

It may not be generally known that the first cannon cast in America were made in the Town of Sharon while it was the District of Stoughtonham. In the spring of 1767 Edmund Quincy, Jr., came to the district and bought a farm on the east shore of Massapoag Lake. One day while walking along the shore of the lake he noticed the indications of iron ore in considerable quantities. Realizing that in case of a war with the mother country, which then seemed imminent, this ore would be of great value to the colonies in the manufacture of heavy guns, he communicated the information of his discovery to his friend Richard Gridley of Boston. Colonel Gridley was the only American who knew anything regarding the manufacture of cannon, having been an engineer in the colonial service. Mr. Quincy purchased of the Dorchester proprietors the right to take the ore. He then formed a sort of partnership with Colonel Gridley and Joseph Jackson and bought the furnace that had been erected by Ebenezer Mann in the south part of the district. The first cannon were completed in 1775, and Colonel Gridley, who had in the meantime become the chief engineer of the Continental army, came out to the works to test them. The test proved satisfactory and the guns were used on various fields of the Revolution.

#### BUNKER HILL

When the "Lexington Alarm" was sounded through Massachusetts on April 19, 1775, two companies, commanded by Capt. Samuel Payson and Capt.

Israel Smith, marched from Stoughtonham (See chapter on the Revolution). But there was one incident connected with the War for Independence that belongs peculiarly to Sharon history, and is thus told by Solomon Talbot:

"It was the morning of the 17th of June, 1775, when the stillness of the early hour was broken by heavy cannonading in the distance, at Boston. The roar of heavy guns continued all the forenoon. In the afternoon the contest seemed to have redoubled its fury. What were the thoughts of these women as the horrors of war and bloody strife entered their minds? What if their husbands or sons should be slain in battle and a revengeful, conquering enemy should put into execution their threats to come with fire and sword, burn the houses and kill the defenseless women and children?

"In their agony of spirit and despair they turned their steps to Sharon Hill, the high ground near the school house, where they might possibly behold the fearful contest. They sank down in despair as they beheld before them on the horizon, twenty miles away, in a fearful mass of smoke and flames, Charlestown, with its six hundred dwellings.

"Night coming on, the tumult and voice of war was hushed. Anxiously awaiting some tidings from the terrible strife before them, they went into the school house, where they could sympathize with and console each other. Others came in and a goodly number were gathered. Rev. Philip Curtis, who had faithfully watched over them these many years, was with them with his prayers, exhortations and watching. Here on this eventful night was held the first watch-meeting ever held in Sharon. Here these women, with aching hearts and tearful eyes, beheld in the light of burning Charlestown the beacon of freedom, the dawn of a nation's birthday."

#### THE TOWN OF SHARON

On August 23, 1775, was passed the general law providing that all districts in the Province of Massachusetts Bay should become towns, and on that day, or under that act, Stoughtonham became a full-fledged town. Its boundaries then included the present Town of Foxboro, which was set off on June 10, 1778. In some of the records there is a mention of a meeting at which the citizens voted to ask the General Court to change the name to Washington, but no further information on the subject is available. On February 25, 1783, the following act was approved by Gov. John Hancock:

"An act for discontinuing the name of a town in the County of Suffolk incorporated under the name of Stoughtonham, and calling the same Sharon.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said Town of Stoughtonham shall no longer bear that name, but henceforth shall be called and known by the name of Sharon, the aforesaid incorporating act notwithstanding. And all officers in said town shall hold and exercise their respective offices in the same manner as they would have done had not the name of said town been altered."

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice in the town was established on July 1, 1819, and was located at Cobb's Tavern, on the Bay road. In 1828 the postoffice at Sharon

Centre was established. On June 3, 1841, the name of the office at Cobb's Tavern was changed to East Sharon, and that at Sharon Centre to Sharon. The former has been discontinued, so that the only postoffice in the town is the one at Sharon.

#### TOWN HALL

For many years the town meetings of Sharon were held in the meeting house or in hired halls. In 1883 J. M. Weston, C. C. Barney and A. B. Lovejoy were appointed a building committee to superintend the erection of a town hall, 45 by 70 feet and two stories in height. Plans were prepared by Arthur H. Dodd, an architect of Boston, and the contract was awarded to L. E. & T. L. Barlow, except the granite foundation which was built by John Moyle. The superstructure is a frame, the first story of which is covered with clapboards and the second story with shingles. At the right hand of the front entrance is a circular tower and the building is surmounted by a cupola, the top of which is seventy-six feet above the sidewalk. The first floor is occupied by the town offices, the clerk's office being provided with a fireproof vault for the preservation of the records. On the second floor is a large hall, 44 by 45 feet, with the customary anterooms, etc. The public library was formerly kept in the building, the cost of which was about eight thousand dollars. The hall was dedicated on February 21, 1884, with appropriate ceremonies.

#### WATERWORKS

The Sharon Waterworks were built by a company and were acquired by the town in 1895. Since that time, to January 1, 1917, the town has appropriated \$31,414 for water for public use, and the sum of \$89,544.51 has been realized by the sale of bonds. Of these bonds the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year 1917 was \$49,000. The system includes two pumping stations, nearly twenty miles of mains and 107 public hydrants. During the year 1916 Pumping Station No. 1 pumped 26,121,500 gallons, and No. 2, 20,371,952 gallons, making a total consumption of 46,493,452 gallons, for which the town received \$10,325 and the cost of maintenance was only \$3,403.

On November 20, 1916, Daniel W. Pettee, who had served on the board of water commissioners for more than twenty-one years, passed away by death and Alfred C. Sampson was appointed to the vacancy. The board at the beginning of the year 1917 was composed of Ralph O. Brown, Alfred C. Sampson and Timothy F. Quinn.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sharon fire department, like those of most of the towns, has been developed from the old hand engine and volunteer company into a thoroughly modern fire-fighting organization. The cost of maintenance for the year 1916 was \$4,541.77, of which \$2,552.51 was used to pay the salaries of the members of the department, and \$698.27 represents the cost of installing a new storage battery for the fire alarm system. Concerning this battery, the board of fire engineers

say in their report: "On June 3d the new storage battery for the fire alarm system was put in commission, replacing the old gravity battery which had been in use since the first installation of the alarm system. The cost of operating the old battery from January 1, 1916, to June 3, 1916, was \$146.88, while the cost of operating the new battery from June 3d to the end of the year was \$18.79. At this rate the new battery will soon pay for itself, as well as being more reliable and up to date."

The board of fire engineers at the beginning of 1917, was composed of Edgar H. Andrews, chief; C. P. Curtis, assistant chief and clerk; A. D. Packard, superintendent of fire alarm.

#### MODERN SHARON

The Sharon of 1917 is quite a different affair from the old Second Precinct of Stoughton in 1740. In 1910 the population of the town, according to the United States census, was 2,310. In 1915 the state census reported the number of inhabitants as being 2,468, a gain of 158 in five years. The assessed valuation of property in 1916 was \$3,900,627, an increase of \$488,038 over that of the preceding year.

Sharon has two weekly newspapers (the Advocate and the News), four public schools, three of which are conducted in buildings erected for the purpose and one in the town hall, electric light, steam and electric railway transportation facilities, a fine public library for a town of its class, churches of different faiths are represented by comfortable houses of worship, several mercantile establishments and some manufacturing concerns. The good roads movement has not been neglected, as in 1916 the town meeting appropriated over one thousand dollars for the purchase of a steam roller and about ten thousand dollars for the construction and repair of highways and sidewalks.

#### TOWN OFFICERS

Following is a list of the leading officials at the beginning of the year 1917: Charles E. Whitcomb, Robert G. Morse and Herbert F. Nelson, selectmen and overseers of the poor; Charles A. Hixon, Henry A. Boyden and Edgar M. Hixon, assessors; George H. Whittemore, clerk; George A. Dennett, treasurer and tax collector; William D. Wheeler, moderator; Ralph S. Earle, John J. Rafter and Sidney A. Weston, school committee; Ambrose B. Peach, highway surveyor; Hervey T. B. Derry, Joseph B. Legge and Milton O. Parker, constables; Edmund H. Talbot, town counsel.

## CHAPTER XXXI

### THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—THE NEW GRANT—EVOLUTION OF STOUGHTON—WILLIAM STOUGHTON—THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD—A STATE GOVERNMENT—STOUGHTON'S RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT—SALTPETRE—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—TOWN OFFICERS—THE PRESENT STOUGHTON.

Lying on the southern border of Norfolk County, about midway between the Atlantic coast and the State of Rhode Island, is the Town of Stoughton. It is bounded on the north by Canton; on the east by Randolph and Avon; on the south by Avon and Plymouth and Bristol counties; and on the west by the Town of Sharon. The central portion is the most elevated, the streams rising in this section flowing in different directions, some northward into Canton and others southward into Plymouth County. Ames Pond, in the southern part, is the largest body of water. York Pond, which receives the waters of Beaver Brook, is on the boundary line between Stoughton and Canton, and in the northwestern portion there is a chain of smaller ponds drained by Mill Brook, which flows in a northerly direction and finally reaches the Neponset River. Being less hilly than some of the other towns, the soil is better adapted to cultivation, and some of the finest farms in Norfolk County are located in Stoughton.

#### THE NEW GRANT

The territory now comprising the Town of Stoughton is a part of the extensive tract known as the "New Grant" to Dorchester, which was made in 1637. That tract extended from "ye Town House to ye Plymouth Line." Its north end was near the present village of Readville and its south end was on what is now the southern boundary line of Norfolk County. The average width was about ten miles.

#### EVOLUTION OF STOUGHTON

On December 15, 1715, the region embracing the present Town of Stoughton, and some of the adjacent towns, was organized as the "Dorchester South Precinct." Part of this precinct was set off to Wrentham in 1724, and on December 22, 1726, the territory now embraced in the towns of Canton, Sharon, Stoughton and the greater part of Foxboro was incorporated as a town by the name of Stoughton, taking its name from Gov. William Stoughton. On July 2, 1740, by an act of the General Court, that part now included in Foxboro and Sharon was established as the Second Precinct. This precinct was made a dis-

trict called Stoughtonham on June 21, 1765. Foxboro was incorporated as a town on June 10, 1778, Sharon followed on February 25, 1783, and the Town of Canton (originally the First Precinct of Stoughton) was incorporated on February 23, 1797. These changes reduced Stoughton to its present dimensions and boundaries. The first town meeting in Stoughton was held on January 2, 1727. The records of that meeting are not available, but it is known that George Talbot was chosen as one of the selectmen. Joseph Tucker was the first town clerk.

#### WILLIAM STOUGHTON

The man for whom the town was named was born in Dorchester in 1631, and was a son of Israel Stoughton, one of the Dorchester proprietors. He graduated at Harvard College at the head of the class of 1650, and soon afterward went to England, where he enjoyed a fellowship at Oxford and completed his studies for the ministry. In 1662 he returned to Massachusetts and followed the profession of a clergyman until 1671, though he never was pastor of a regularly organized society. In 1686 he became the head of the colonial courts, which position he held until the arrival of Governor Andros. Judge Stoughton was named as a member of the council under Andros and by his acceptance he lost much of his popularity. He regained the confidence of the people to some extent in 1689, when he was the first to sign the petition to the king demanding that Andros surrender the reins of government.

Under the new charter he was made lieutenant-governor under Sir William Phipps, and when Governor Phipps instituted a special court of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of the witchcraft cases, Judge Stoughton was appointed chief justice. Barry describes him as "a Puritan of the commonwealth mould; of phlegmatic temperament; rigidly attached to the Puritan creed; thoroughly versed in the knowledge of men; knowing how to accommodate himself to a variety of circumstances, yet superior to all; he was one who, in any situation, was calculated to succeed."

In the witchcraft trials by the special court of which Mr. Stoughton was chief justice, nineteen persons were convicted and sentenced to death. Concerning these trials and convictions, Barry says: "As the excitement subsided the prominent actors in the terrible tragedy began to reflect, and a few made public acknowledgment of their error. . . . Stoughton alone refused to retract, and to the day of his death never regretted the part he had taken."

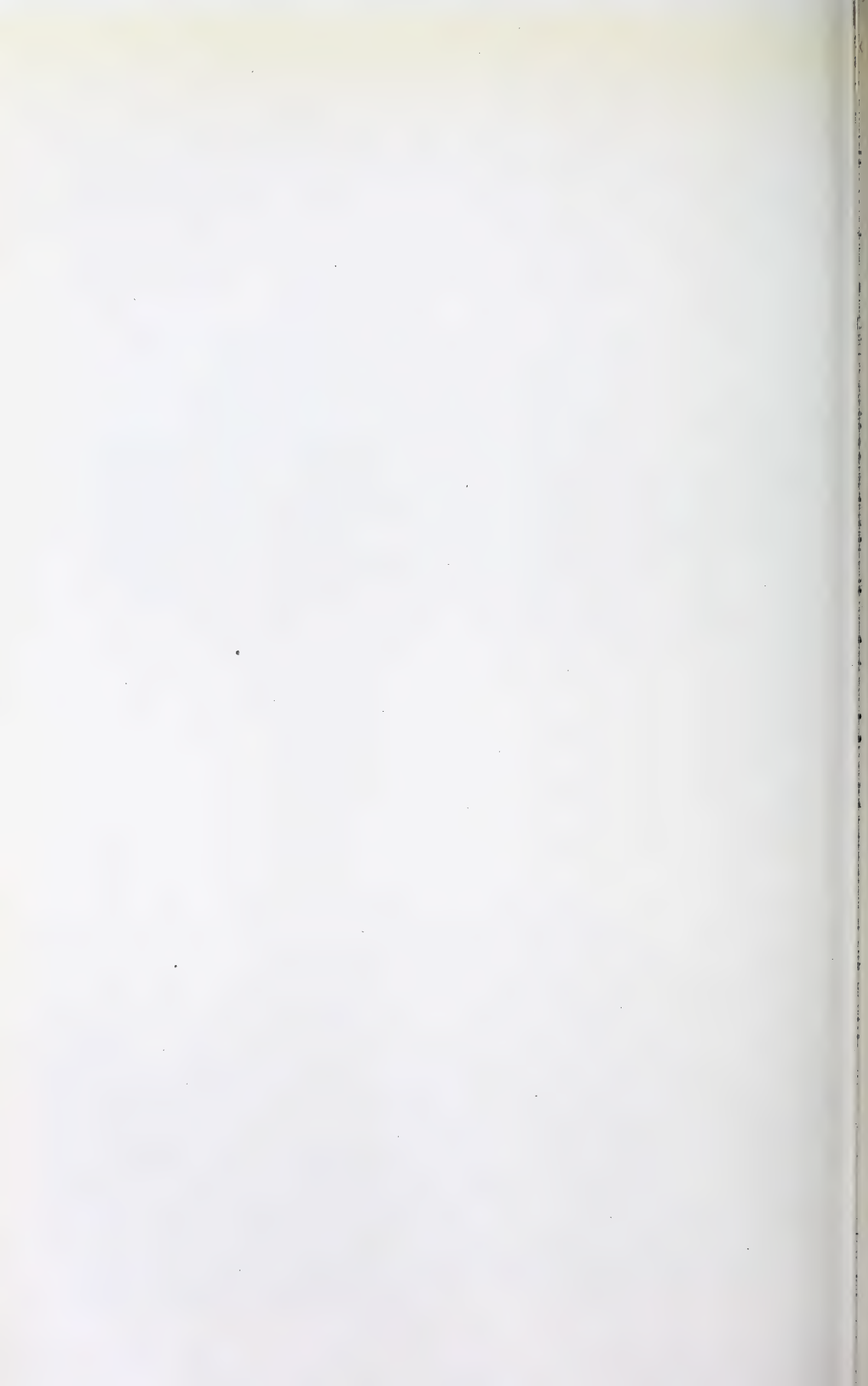
When the Superior Court was organized he was made chief justice, his commission being dated December 22, 1692. His commission was renewed in 1695 and he continued as chief justice until only a short time before his death, also holding the office of lieutenant-governor at the same time. Upon the removal of Governor Phipps in 1694, Stoughton became Governor and served until the arrival of Lord Bellamont in June, 1697. Lord Bellamont died in March, 1701, and Stoughton again became governor, somewhat reluctantly on account of his age and the state of his health, and served until his own death on July 7, 1701. Governor Stoughton was a benefactor of Harvard College. Before his death he erected at his own expense the building known as "Stoughton Hall," and in his will be left a legacy of a thousand pounds to his Alma Mater.



NEW HOME OF THE STOUGHTON TRUST COMPANY



HIGH SCHOOL, STOUGHTON



## THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

During the first half century of Stoughton's corporate existence little out of the ordinary took place. The people were busily engaged in building better houses, developing their farms, establishing schools for their children, opening highways, etc. With the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765, the dawning of the spirit of independence began to be felt. Early in 1773 a letter from the Boston Committee of Correspondence was sent to all the towns of Suffolk County. At a town meeting in Stoughton on March 1, 1773, this letter was read and it was voted to send a reply, setting forth the opinion that the rights of the colonists had been seriously infringed upon, violated by arbitrary will and power, and that the people of Stoughton were apprehensive that in the future this might prove fatal to them and their posterity by reducing them to a state of slavery.

On September 26, 1774, Thomas Crane, who lived in the First Parish, afterward set off as the Town of Canton, was elected representative to the Great and General Court to be held at Salem, and was given the following instructions:

"Sir—As we have now chosen you to Represent us in the Great and General Court to be holden at Salem on Wednesday ye 5th day of October next ensuing We do hereby Instruct you that in all your Doings as a member of the House of Representatives you adhere firmly to the Charter of this Province granted by their Majesties King William and Queen Mary & that you do no act that can possibly be construed into an acknowledgement of ye validity of ye Act of the ye British Parliament for altering ye Government of Massachusetts Bay. More Especially that you acknowledge ye Honourable Board of Counsellors elected by ye General Court at their Session in May last as ye only rightfull & Constitutional Counsel of this Province: And as we have reason to believe that a Conscientious Discharge of your Duty will Produce your Disolution as an House of Representatives We do hereby Impower and Instruct you to join with ye members who may be sent from this and ye Other Towns in ye Province & to meet with them at a time to be agreed upon in a General Provincial Congress to act upon such Matters as may come before you in such manner as may appear to you most Conducive to ye true Interest of this Town & Province as most Likely to Preserve the Liberties of all North America."

When the Suffolk Congress met on August 16, 1774, at Doty's Tavern (then in the Town of Stoughton) several citizens of the town were in attendance, but it does not appear that they were chosen by any action of the voters of the town. That meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. Samuel Dunbar, pastor of the First Parish Church—a prayer which Bancroft says "breathed forth among them the spirit of liberty, and the venerable man seemed inspired with the most divine and prophetic enthusiasm." The action of that meeting acted as a spur to the people of Stoughton, for on August 29th, at a town meeting called for the purpose, it was—

"Voted, That a Committee be chosen to Represent ye Town in a County Convention of ye Towns and Districts of this County to be holden at ye house of Richard Woodward at Dedham on Tuesday ye 6th day of September next with full power of adjourning acting & Doing all such Matters & things in said Convention or in a general Convention of ye Countys of this Province as to them may appear of Publick Utility in this day of Publick and General Distress.

"Voted, That five persons be chosen for this Purpose & also that John Withington, Theophilus Curtis, John Kenney, Jedediah Southworth and Josiah Pratt be this Committee; That this Committee be directed to Endeavor to obtain a County Indemnification for all such Persons as may be fined or otherwise have suffered by a non-compliance with a Late Act of ye British Parliament intituled 'An Act for the Better Regulation of the Government of the Massachusetts Bay in North America.' That this Committee be also a Committee of Correspondence to advise and Correspond with ye other Towns in this Province about all such Matters & Things as may appear to them likely in any way to affect the Publick."

On May 22, 1776, six weeks before the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, that event was foreshadowed by a town meeting in Stoughton, which declared by an almost unanimous vote, "That if the Honourable Continental Congress should for the safety of the Colonies declare us independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, we the Inhabitants of Stoughton will solemnly engage with our lives and fortunes to support them in the measure."

#### A STATE GOVERNMENT

In September, 1776, the General Court sent out to the various towns of the state a communication relative to the formation of a state constitution and the inauguration of a new form of government. On the last day of the month a town meeting was held in Stoughton to take action on the communication. John Kenney, Christopher Wadsworth, Jonathan Capen, Abner Crane and Elijah Dunbar were appointed a committee to draft the town's reply. Following is the report of the committee:

"We the subscribers, being chosen a committee by this town at a town meeting legally assembled at Stoughton on the 30th of September last, to draft a vote upon and article in ye town warrant respecting chosing ye present Gen'l Court to form a plan of Government for ye State have attended to that Service & Beg leave to report the following resolutions viz

"1—Resolved That good Government is the basis of liberty & absolutely necessary to the safety & Wellfare of a People.

"2—Resolved That as the end of Government is the Happiness of ye people so ye sole Power & Right of forming and establishing a plan thereof is essentially in ye People.

"3—Resolved That as this State is at Present destitute of a fixed & Established form of Government it is Absolutely necessary that one Immediately be formed Agreeable to the recommendation of ye Grand Congress.

"4—Resolved That as the present House of Representatives have passed a resolve to see if ye Severall Toens in this State would empower them, the said House of Representatives together with the Council, to enact a plan of Government for this State it appears to us unadvisable & Irrational & a measure that ought not by any means to be Complied with for these reasons viz—That we are totally unacquainted with the Capacities & Patriotism & Character of ye members that compose ye said House & Council excepting our own member Also because they were Never elected by ye people for that purpose & also because the present Embarrassed State of our Publick Affairs calls for the steady attention of every member of ye said House and Council.

"5—Resolved That it is the Duty & Interest of this Town immediately to choose one or more members to join with the members of the Other Towns in this State to form & Publish a plan of Government for said State.

"6—Resolved That in order to Carry ye foregoing Resolutions into Execution as soon as ye Importance of the matter may admit it appears to us best that the members of ye Severall Towns in this State Chosen for ye express purpose afore said should meet together by Them selves or by their Committee in a State Convention or Congress & compare the severall forms of Government together whereby the Wisdom of the whole State may be collected & a form of Government be Extracted.

"7—Resolved That it appears to us Absolutely necessary for the Liberty & safety of this State that the plan of Government when formed and Published should not be Established till ye People of this State have had time & Opportunity of thoroughly examining the same & shall consent that it be established by the said State Convention or Congress.

"All of which is humbly submitted by us.

"JOHN KENNEY

"CHRISTOPHER WADSWORTH

"JONATHAN CAPEN

"ABNER CRANE

"ELIJAH DUNBAR

"Stoughton, October 2d, 1776."

Such was the idea of the people of Stoughton regarding a state constitution and the manner of its formation and adoption. If the reader will now turn to the chapter on Bellingham and note the action of that town on the same subject, he will be impressed with the similarity of the theories advanced by those two towns, and that without any collusion between them. For years the town meeting had been educating the people to the notion that government in any form should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed—a sentiment which found expression in the Declaration of Independence and has been the dominating idea in the formation of all our state constitutions.

#### SALTPETRE

Gunpowder was quite an item in 1776, and at a town meeting in Stoughton on March 4, 1776, an article in the warrant was "To see if the town will take any method to encourage the manufacture of saltpetre." At the meeting it was voted that a committee be appointed to begin the manufacture of that article. Adam Blackman, Jonathan Capen, Esquire Dunbar, Samuel Osgood and George Crossman were appointed as the committee. These men set to work upon the project and in June their factory was ready to begin operations. The first saltpetre from this committee was sent to the powder-mill in Milton about the time of the adoption of the above resolutions, or perhaps a little earlier. (See also the chapter on the Revolution.)

#### WATERWORKS

The first move toward providing a water supply for the inhabitants of Stoughton was made on May 28, 1886, when the governor approved an act of

the Legislature incorporating "John G. Phinney, Charles W. Lunn, E. Morton Elmes, Charles W. Welch, Charles E. Parker, their associates and successors, as the Stoughton Water Company."

By the provisions of the act the company's authorized capital stock was not to exceed \$50,000, and it was given power to take water from Knowles' Brook, Muddy Pond Brook, Porter's Brook and the Drake School House well, "and take by purchase and hold the Hill and Drake well, so called, situated on land of the heirs of Henry Drake," etc.

Section 10 of the act provided that the Town of Stoughton might "at any time purchase of said corporation its franchise, corporate property and all its rights and privileges, at a price which may be mutually agreed upon," etc., whenever two-thirds of the voters give their assent thereto, and in the event of such purchase the town was authorized to issue bonds in any sum not to exceed \$100,000, to pay for the same.

In 1887 the Stoughton Fire District was organized. It was incorporated by the act of April 30, 1888, with power to purchase the rights and privileges of the Stoughton Water Company, provided that the Town of Stoughton did not within one year exercise its right of purchase under the act of May 28, 1886. This stimulated the town to action and before the expiration of the twelve months it was voted to issue the necessary bonds and acquire the franchise of the Stoughton Water Company. The town was also given the right to acquire the franchise and property of the Stoughton Fire District, in the act incorporating said district.

By the act of June 3, 1892, the town was authorized to issue bonds to the amount of \$150,000 for the completion of the waterworks and the extension of the mains to all parts of the town, with the provision that a sinking fund should be established to guarantee the payment of the bonds when they became due. The sinking fund provision was changed by the act of March 17, 1893, which gave to the town the privilege of making annual payments on the water loan instead of establishing a sinking fund. Under the liberal legislation of the above mentioned acts, Stoughton has a system of waterworks second to none in Norfolk County.

According to the report of the water commissioners for the year ending on December 31, 1916, the total cost of the works up to that time had been \$352,193.73, and the net expense for maintenance, \$184,675.35. The total income from bonds was \$303,407.28, and from water rates \$222,506.23. During the year 126,564,000 gallons of water were pumped and distributed through nearly thirty-one miles of mains to 1,528 families, 3 hotels, 18 factories, 19 business bulidings and 330 street hydrants. The amount received for water rates was \$14,688, exclusive of meter rentals and the \$6,600 paid by the town for the use of hydrants in case of fire. During the year the bonded debt was reduced \$17,000, leaving the amount of bonds outstanding at the close of the year \$134,000.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Stoughton's fire department is in keeping with the town's general progress. The board of fire engineers for 1916 was made up of James J. Pye, chief; Henry M. Bird, first assistant and clerk; James E. Reilly, second assistant; Cornelius Healy, Jr., George W. Pratt and George E. Malcolm. From their annual report

it is learned that the department consists of four companies, to wit: Stoughton Steamer Company, in connection with which is kept the auto combination truck, numbers sixteen men; Washington Hook and Ladder Company, ten men; North Stoughton Hose Company, six men; West Stoughton Hose Company, eight men, a total (including the six members of the board of engineers) of forty-six men.

The cost of maintenance for the year 1916 was \$6,150.51, considerably more than half of which was used in paying the salaries of the members of the department. During the year fifty-six alarms were answered, sixteen of which were forest fires. The fire alarm system consists of twenty-two boxes, stationed at convenient places in all parts of the town, so that no time need be lost in calling the department.

#### TOWN OFFICERS

Following is a list of the principal town officials at the beginning of the year 1917: George W. Pratt, Cornelius Healy, Jr., and George E. Malcolm, selectmen and overseers of the poor; Cornelius Healy, Jr., George W. Pratt and James E. Reilly, assessors; George O. Wentworth, clerk and treasurer; Henry Fitzpatrick, tax collector; George P. Curtis, G. A. Sprague, Jr., Ernest E. Randall, water commissioners; John W. Wood, Edgar F. Leonard and Dennis W. Toomey, school committee; Jerome F. Murphy, Ralph S. Blake and Arthur R. Jenkins, auditors; Daniel F. Vaughn, highway surveyor; George H. Coward, Michael F. Powers and Arthur L. Holmes, park commissioners; Richard Vanston, Anson L. Favor, James J. Pye and Daniel F. O'Connor, constables.

#### THE PRESENT STOUGHTON

Between the years 1910 and 1915 the increase in population in Stoughton was 666, the United States census of the former year giving the town a population of 6,316 and the state census of the latter year reporting 6,982. The assessed valuation of property on April 1, 1916, according to the report of the assessors, was \$4,747,017, an increase over the assessment of the preceding year of \$525,585. Stoughton has a bank (the Stoughton Trust Company), two weekly newspapers (the News and Sentinel), eleven public school buildings and employs thirty-three teachers, Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal and Universalist churches, a number of thriving manufacturing establishments, well-stocked stores that handle practically all lines of merchandise, good roads and sidewalks, and many handsome residences. The town is lighted with electricity by contract with the Edison Company and recently an effort has been made to have the Brockton Gas and Illuminating Company extend its lines into the town. Two divisions of the New York, New Haven & Hartford unite at Stoughton Junction. The railroad stations in the town are North Stoughton, West Stoughton, South Stoughton and Stoughton. Electric railway lines connect the town with Brockton, Randolph, and East Sharon, where other lines are connected, so that the transportation facilities are unsurpassed.

## CHAPTER XXXII

### THE TOWN OF WALPOLE

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—EARLY HISTORY—INCORPORATION OF WALPOLE—ORGANIC ACT—THE TOWN NAME—THE MEETING HOUSE—FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR—TOWN HALL—THE FOUNTAIN—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—WALPOLE OF THE PRESENT—TOWN OFFICERS.

Situated in the central portion of Norfolk County is the Town of Walpole. It is an irregularly shaped tract of land, bounded, beginning on the north and proceeding eastward, by the towns of Dover, Westwood, Norwood, Sharon, Foxboro, Norfolk and Medfield. The Neponset River flows in a northerly direction from the southern boundary to a point near the center, where it turns more to the northeast, and after passing through a long, narrow pond enters the Town of Norwood. There are several ponds in Walpole, the best known of which is probably Morey's Pond, lying a little west of the center of the town. The surface is generally rolling and in some places so rough and hilly as to be poorly adapted to cultivation.

#### EARLY HISTORY

When the Town of Dedham was incorporated in 1636 it included the territory now comprising the Town of Walpole, and for nearly a century the history of Walpole is part of the history of Dedham. There is abundant evidence that settlements were made within the limits of Walpole at an early date. The cedar swamp frequently mentioned in the early Dedham records is generally conceded to be the cedar swamp "lying between the plain and South Walpole." In May, 1658, Eleazer Lusher and Joshua Fisher were granted a privilege to erect a saw mill on the Neponset River. It has been stated by several writers on Norfolk County history that this mill was situated in what is now the Town of Norwood, but Henry E. Fales, in an address delivered at Walpole on September 28, 1881, on the occasion of the dedication of the town hall, set up the claim that it was within the limits of Walpole.

When the first settlers came to this part of Dedham they found the uplands covered with timber. The meadows along the Neponset and in the vicinity of the larger ponds were open and afforded an abundant supply of hay for the live stock. These meadows formed the principal inducement to settle in the locality. Game was abundant in the woods and gave the settler an opportunity to provide his family with a large part of the meat consumed. Wild beasts of prey were likewise numerous, and after the Town of Walpole was incorporated bounties were paid for the destruction of wolves, wildcats and rattlesnakes.



MAIN STREET, WALPOLE



## INCORPORATION OF WALPOLE

As in the case of several of the Norfolk County towns, the moving cause of separation from the mother town was the inconvenience of attending church in Dedham. As early as 1721 a petition was presented to the General Court, asking that the south part of Dedham might be set off as a parish for the purpose of supporting religious worship, in accordance with the laws of the colony. There is no doubt but that petition was signed by some of the inhabitants living within the present limits of Walpole, but the petition itself has disappeared from the archives. Dedham opposed the movement and the General Court refused to grant the prayer of the petitioners. Three years later a more formidable petition was presented and a committee was appointed to urge that it be granted. This time the Town of Dedham gave consent and on December 10, 1724, the General Court passed the following

## ORGANIC ACT

"Whereas, the South part of the Town of Dedham, within the County of Suffolk, is completely filled with inhabitants, who labor under great difficulties by their Remoteness from the place of public worship, etc., and have thereupon made their application to the said Town of Dedham, and likewise addressed this Court, that they may be set off a distinct and separate town, and be vested with all the powers and privileges of a town, and the inhabitants of Dedham having consented to their being set off accordingly, and a committee of this Court having viewed the said Town of Dedham and reported a proper divisional line between the two parts thereof—

"Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the southerly part of the said Town of Dedham be and hereby is set off and constituted a separate township by the name of Walpole.

"Provided that the inhabitants of the said Town of Walpole do, within the space of eighteen months from the publication of this act, erect and finish a suitable house for publick worship of God, and as soon as may be procure and settle a learned, Orthodox minister of good conversation, and make provision for his comfortable and honourable support; and likewise provide a schoolmaster to instruct their youth in writing and reading; and that thereupon they be discharged from any further payments for the maintenance of the Ministry and school in the Town of Dedham."

## THE TOWN NAME

The town was named for Sir Robert Walpole, the eminent English statesman, who was one of the leaders of the whig party and prime minister in the reigns of George I and George II. He was accused of corrupt practices and not without some grounds, as it was his custom to win public men to his side by giving bribes, either in money or public office. He is said to have been the author of the memorable saying, "Every man has his price." Notwithstanding this trait of character, he was recognized as one of the foremost statesmen of his day and his own acts

in public life stand above reproach. He died in 1745, before the commencement of the troubles between the American colonies and the mother country that culminated in the Revolution.

#### THE MEETING HOUSE

The oldest town record bears date of March 30, 1725. That a meeting had been held before that time is evident, and the records of that meeting no doubt contained the names of the first town officers. It is known that Samuel Kingsbury was the first town clerk—elected at the first town meeting and served until 1729.

At the meeting of March 30, 1725, it was voted to build a meeting house, in accordance with the provisions of the act of incorporation. Pending the completion of the meeting house, religious services were conducted by different ministers in the homes of the citizens. After several meetings, it was decided to build the meeting house near the center of the town, and that it was to be 32 by 38 feet in dimensions. It was commenced in 1726, but was not fully completed until several years later. Rev. Joseph Belcher was the first minister called by the town. (See chapters on Church History.)

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

In the expedition organized for the invasion of Canada in 1759, a large part of the company commanded by Capt. William Bacon came from Walpole. There were also several men from Walpole in Capt. Eliphalet Fales' company from Dedham. Josiah Lyon and Ebenezer Pratt, of Captain Bacon's company, were either killed or captured; thirteen died of disease during the campaign; and two others—James Weatherbee and Simon Pittee—died soon after they returned to their homes.

The French and Indian war wielded an important influence upon the subsequent history of Massachusetts. It was closed by the treaty of Paris in 1763, and on March 10, 1764, Lord Grenville, then secretary of state for Great Britain, proposed to Parliament to provide for part of the expenses of the war by taxing the American colonies. Then followed the Stamp Act in March, 1765, the first of the acts levying taxes upon the colonists. The men of Walpole, who had fought under the British flag for the conquest of Canada, were now just as ready to resist what they regarded as unjust taxation. On September 26, 1774, they elected Nathaniel Guild as their representative to the Provincial Congress, and on the 19th of December following a town meeting adopted by a unanimous vote the fourteen articles of association submitted to the colonies by the Continental Congress that met at Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. The active part taken by Walpole in the Revolution is told in another chapter of this work.

#### TOWN HALL

When Walpole was incorporated there was neither meeting house nor school house in the town. The first town meetings were therefore held at the house of one of the residents. After the meeting house was sufficiently completed, the town meetings were held in that structure, and still later in the vestry of the First



PUBLIC LIBRARY, WALPOLE



ODD FELLOWS' BUILDING AND TOWN HALL, WALPOLE



Church, where they met as late as 1881, or until the completion of the present town hall. At the annual meeting in 1880 it was voted to build a town house and a building committee, of which George E. Craig was chairman, was appointed to superintend the work. The building was completed the following year and was dedicated on September 28, 1881, Henry E. Fales delivering the historical address. The hall is a substantial brick structure, standing upon an eminence at the corner of Main and Stone streets. The lower floor is fitted up for the town offices and on the second floor is a large hall. In the tower is a clock. The cost of the building was about thirty thousand dollars. It was thoroughly remodeled in 1916.

#### THE FOUNTAIN

At one side of the square, almost in front of the town hall, stands a granite monument in the shape of a fountain, which was presented to the town by George A. Plimpton in 1907. On the front of the fountain is the inscription: "1755—Erected in grateful recognition of the services of the men of Walpole and vicinity in the French and Indian war. They enlisted not for a livelihood, but with intent to return to their farms and trades, being chiefly influenced to take up arms by a regard for the honor of the King, the defense of their country and the preservation of their religion and liberties."

On the right of the reverse side are the names of Capt. Eliphalet Fales, Capt. Ephraim Wheelock, and thirty-four members of their companies, and on the left the names of Capt. William Bacon, John Clapp and thirty-four members of Captain Bacon's company.

#### WATERWORKS

By an act of the Legislature, approved on May 2, 1893, the Town of Walpole was authorized to supply its inhabitants with water, using therefor the waters of Spring Brook, Mill Brook, Traphole Brook, artesian or driven wells, etc., and for the purpose of constructing a system of waterworks the town was given power to borrow not more than \$125,000, whenever two-thirds of the legal voters gave their assent to such a proposition. At a town meeting called for the purpose, the necessary two-thirds vote was obtained and early in 1894 work was commenced.

The source of supply consists of forty driven wells near Lower Brook, just off Washington Street. A pumping station, equipped with machinery installed by the George F. Blake Manufacturing Company, pumps the water from these wells into three standpipes having a combined capacity of 675,000 gallons. From these standpipes the water is distributed to about ninety per cent of the inhabitants through a little more than thirty-one miles of street mains. The water was first turned into the mains for the consumers in the early summer of 1895, in which year the board of water commissioners made their first annual report.

In 1916 the board of water commissioners was composed of Henry B. Plimpton, Harry L. Howard and John C. Donnelly. In their annual report for that year they state the net cost of the plant to December 31, 1916, as \$214,798.55; net debt on December 31, 1916, as \$60,300, and the net cost to the town as \$51,160.75. During the year 271,032,682 gallons of water were pumped and distributed to the 5,200 consumers, for which the town received in water rates the sum of \$22,965.92. There are 241 fire hydrants placed at convenient places throughout the town.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The board of fire engineers at the close of the year 1916 was composed of James J. Hennessey, Thomas H. Smith, Frank A. Fisher and Guy A. Williams. The fifth member of the board, elected at the annual meeting in 1916, was James E. Mahar, who removed to Norwood before the expiration of his term and consequently resigned his place on the board. According to the annual report of this board, the department consists of five engineers and fifty men, assigned to the three companies as follows: Company No. 1 at Walpole Centre, twenty men; Company No. 2 at East Walpole, twenty men; Company No. 3 at South Walpole, ten men. At the Central Station the equipment consists of one hose truck, one ladder truck, and one forest fire wagon. The same equipment is provided for Station No. 2 at East Walpole, and at the engine house in South Walpole is kept a hose truck and forest fire wagon. During the year 1916 the department answered twenty-three calls, exclusive of forest fires. Several new alarm boxes were installed during the year. The appropriations for the department at the last annual meeting were \$3,200 for the department proper, and \$1,250 for the maintenance of the fire alarm system. All in all Walpole has a fire department that compares favorably with those of other towns of its class.

## WALPOLE OF THE PRESENT

Upon the town seal of Walpole is depicted an old water mill, presumably the old saw mill of Eleazer Lusher and Joshua Fisher on the Neponset River, with a forest of trees in the background, and in the margin are the words: "Walpole Massachusetts, Incorporated 1724." Quite a change has come to the town since the conditions represented by the corporate seal existed. The Walpole of the present day is one of the thriving towns of the Old Bay State, with a population of 5,490 in 1915, a gain of 598 during the preceding five years. The total valuation of property on April 1, 1916, according to the report of the assessors, was \$7,636,198; an increase over the assessment of the preceding year of \$757,181.

Walpole has a bank, a weekly newspaper (the Enterprise), a fine public library, six public school buildings, parks and playgrounds, well kept streets, a number of manufacturing establishments with an invested capital of over five millions of dollars, electric light, telephone connections with the surrounding towns and the City of Boston, three postoffices—Walpole, East Walpole and South Walpole—and a number of well tilled farms. Two lines of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system pass through the town, crossing each other at Walpole Junction, and there are electric lines to the adjoining towns. Evidence of prosperity is seen in the fact that the town carries insurance upon the municipal and public school buildings aggregating \$273,663, while the net bonded debt at the close of the year 1916 was only \$191,540.

## TOWN OFFICERS

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal officers of Walpole were as follows: Henry M. Stowell, Louis E. Vose and Timothy E. Delaney, selectmen



WALPOLE RUBBER COMPANY, WALPOLE



LEWIS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, WALPOLE



and overseers of the poor; Charles Brown, Melzar W. Allen and Nathan W. Fisher, assessors; Harry L. Howard, clerk; Harry A. Whiting, treasurer; George H. Kingsbury, Michael F. McCarthy and Charles S. Bird, Jr., park commissioners; Thomas D. Plimpton, George Cobb and Frederick H. Fuller, board of health; Otis J. Dionne, tax collector; William Jarvis, highway surveyor; J. E. Plimpton, George M. Graves, P. H. Mahoney, Philip R. Allen, Ida N. Caldwell and Elizabeth H. Vose, school committee; William F. Riordan, N. E. Winslow and William P. Crowley, constables.

## CHAPTER XXXIII

### THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—HISTORICAL—INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN—NAMING THE TOWN—FIRST OFFICERS—TOWN HALL—POSTOFFICES—TOWN SEAL—WATERWORKS—ELECTRIC LIGHT—FIRE DEPARTMENT—SEWER SYSTEM—PUBLIC BATH HOUSE—MODERN WELLESLEY—TOWN OFFICERS.

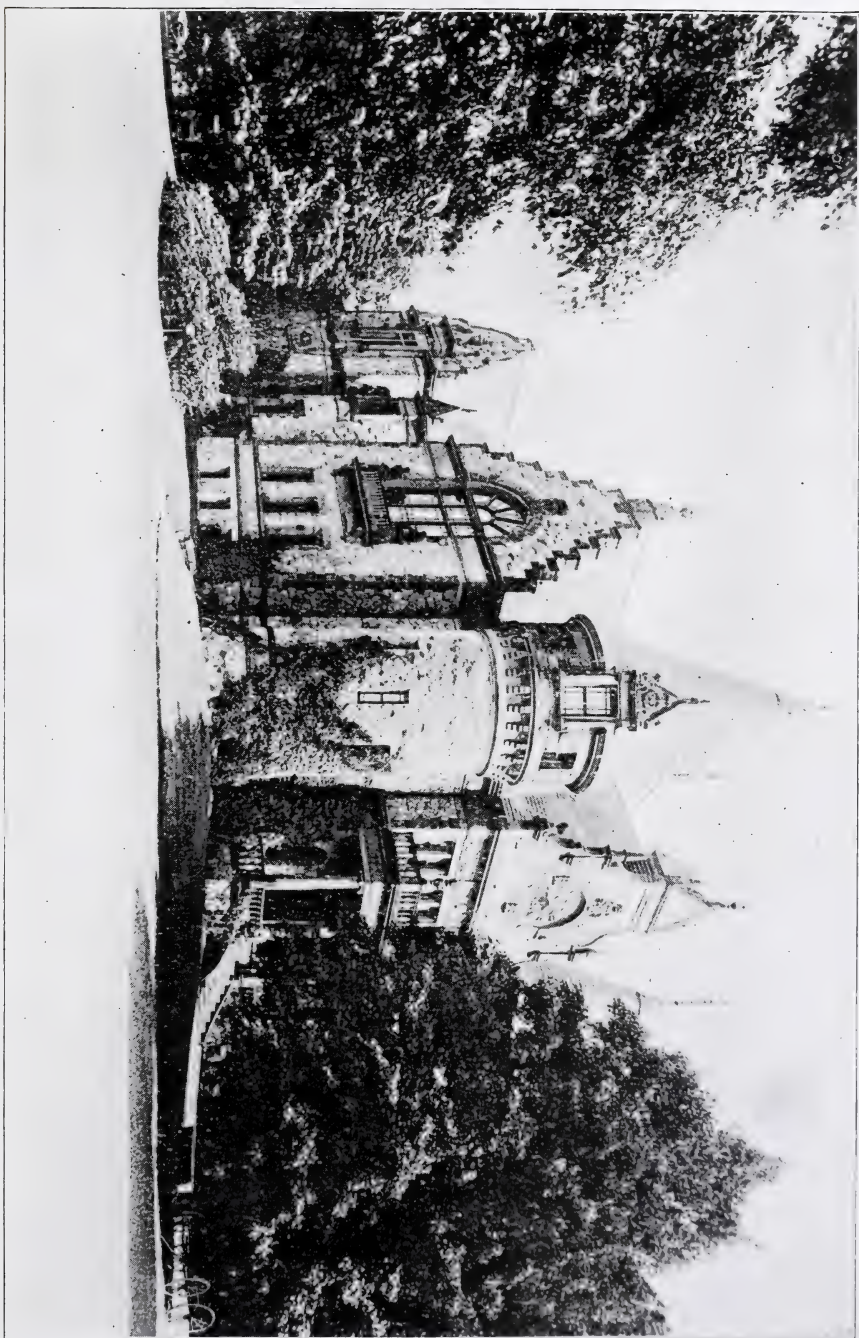
Wellesley is the most northern town in Norfolk County. On the north it is bounded by Middlesex County; on the east by Needham; on the south by Dover and the County of Middlesex; and on the west by the County of Middlesex. Lake Waban and Morse Pond are located in the western part, and there are a few small streams, tributaries of the Charles River. The shape of the town is that of an irregular rectangle, about four and a half miles from northeast to southwest, with an average width of a little more than two miles. Magus (or Maugus) Hill takes its name from the Indian who deeded the land to the Dedham proprietors in April, 1681. Wellesley Hills, also called "Wellesley Hundreds" (because the land was allotted to the early settlers in tracts of 100 acres each), has long been a favorite residential district on account of its healthfulness and picturesque scenery.

#### HISTORICAL

Wellesley is a comparatively new town and its early history is included in that of Dedham until 1711, and from 1711 to 1881 in that of the Town of Needham, of which it was a part during that period. For more than sixty years after the incorporation of Needham in 1711, there was but one meeting house in the town. In 1773 the old meeting house was destroyed by fire and immediately a contest arose regarding the location of the new one. Those living in what is now the Town of Needham were in favor of rebuilding upon the old site, while those living in the westerly part of the town (now Wellesley) wanted the meeting house placed in a more convenient location for their accommodation. By this time a considerable number of people had settled in the westerly portion and to settle the dispute they were given the privilege of building a meeting house and employing a minister of their own. Two hundred pounds were raised in a short time by subscription, a meeting house was built, and in 1778 the parish was incorporated as the "West Precinct of Needham" by an act of the General Court.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN

Although the inhabitants of the West Precinct enjoyed all the freedom in religious matters that they would have enjoyed as a town, they soon came to desire



TOWN HALL, WELLESLEY



political rights and privileges, whereby they could develop their local institutions. Consequently an effort was made in 1801 to have the precinct set off as a town, but the opposition of Needham was too strong to be overcome at that time and the General Court denied the petition. Another well organized movement for separation was started in 1820, but again the petition was defeated through the opposition of the mother town. During the next fifty years several attempts were made, all of which ended in failure. Then came a period of about ten years in which the subject was allowed to lie dormant, in the hope that the people of Needham would lose interest in the question of separation. In 1880 a petition went up to the General Court, bearing the names of nearly all the legal voters in the West Precinct, which had by this time grown into a populous and wealthy community, and a committee was appointed to see that it was given the proper consideration. This time Needham's opposition was merely nominal, and on April 6, 1881, the governor approved an act incorporating the new town. Section 1 of that act is as follows:

"All that territory lying within the Town of Needham northerly and westerly of a line beginning at a point in the boundary line between the towns of Needham and Dover seventy-five feet northerly from the central line of Charles River Street where it crosses Charles River; thence running northeasterly about four miles and seventy-six hundredths of a mile to a point in the centre of the reservoir, so called, near the village of Newton Upper Falls, two hundred feet easterly from a point in the centre line of Reservoir Street midway between the abutments of the bridge by which said Reservoir Street crosses said reservoir; thence running easterly by the centre line of said reservoir about fourteen hundred feet to a point in the boundary line between the Town of Needham and the City of Newton near the centre of the Charles River, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Wellesley; and the said town is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities and is subject to all the duties and requisitions to which other towns are entitled or subjected by the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth."

Other sections of the act contain the usual provisions, in incorporating a new town, relative to arrears of taxes, support of paupers and the division of town property and debt.

#### NAMING THE TOWN

Wellesley derives its name from the Welles family, members of which were among the early settlers. Samuel Welles purchased a tract of land at the junction of Washington Street and Pond Road (then within the limits of the Town of Natick) as early as 1750 and built thereon a dwelling which was occupied by him and his family for many years as a farm and summer home. He became a large landowner and at one time owned the Wellesley town farm. Samuel Welles graduated at Harvard with the class of 1707, married Hannah Arnold and removed to Boston, where his wife inherited large property. His two sons—Arnold and Samuel—both graduated at Harvard, and John Welles, a son of Arnold, became a member of the banking house of J. & B. Welles, of Boston and Paris. John Welles was also a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the Massachusetts Legislature, and was one of the early presidents of the Boston City Council.

In 1839 this same John Welles, after several years in Paris in connection with his banking business, purchased the residence known as the "Morrill House" in Wellesley, which he used as a summer home for some twelve or thirteen years. Later, upon a tract of about thirty acres about the "Mansion House," he laid out and developed one of the most beautiful gardens to be found in the United States. His daughter became the wife of H. H. Hunnewell and inherited the property, which has since become widely known as "Hunnewell Gardens."

#### FIRST OFFICERS

A few days after the passage of the act of incorporation, Solomon Flagg, who had been town clerk of Needham for some thirty years, but who lived in that part set off as Wellesley, issued his warrant for a town meeting to be held on Monday, April 18, 1881, for the purpose of choosing such officers as towns are authorized by law to elect. At that meeting George K. Daniell was chosen moderator; Lyman K. Putney, Walter Hunnewell and John W. Shaw, selectmen and overseers of the poor; George K. Daniell, Joseph H. Dewing and Dexter Kingsbury, assessors; Solomon Flagg, clerk; Albert Jennings, treasurer; Joseph E. Fiske, Benjamin H. Sanborn and Marshall L. Perrin, school committee. At an adjourned meeting on the last day of April, appropriations were made as follows: Schools, \$8,000; highways and sidewalks, \$3,500. Provision was also made for general expenses, and it was voted that no licenses to sell intoxicating liquors in the town should be granted. A committee was appointed at this meeting to effect a settlement with Needham, which was done to the satisfaction of both towns.

#### TOWN HALL

In the division of Needham and the erection of the Town of Wellesley, the town hall that had been used for many years by Needham fell within the limits of the new town. Its location was not convenient for the Town of Wellesley, and besides it was an old building that had "outlived its usefulness." Hollis H. Hunnewell gave to the town a new building, designed for a town hall and public library, surrounded by a park of about ten acres. The cost of the building, which is a handsome and substantial stone structure, was about sixty thousand dollars. In addition to this munificent gift, Mr. Hunnewell also provided a fund of twenty thousand dollars, the income from which is to be used in caring for the building and grounds. The edifice was completed and dedicated in 1883.

#### POSTOFFICES

The first postoffice within the limits of the present Town of Wellesley was established about 1830, with Charles Noyes as postmaster. It was known as West Needham. Mail was brought every other day by the stages running between Boston and Natick. Charles Noyes was a son of Rev. Thomas Noyes and an optician. He kept the office in his "shop" where he conducted his business until succeeded by William Flagg, who held the position for about twenty-five years. The office has long since been discontinued.



WELLESLEY NATIONAL BANK



Grantville was made a postoffice in November, 1851, with Rev. William H. Adams in charge as postmaster. A railroad station was established here in 1884, but both the postoffice and station have disappeared from the map.

Wellesley Farms postoffice was established sometime in the early '90s and was at first kept in the house of the postmaster, J. F. Wight. Later it was removed to a room near the railroad station. It is now a station of the Boston office, as is the office at Wellesley.

#### TOWN SEAL

The town seal was designed by the architect who planned the town hall and library building. In the center of a circular field is an escutcheon, upon which is an open book with a flower lying across the pages. Projecting above the escutcheon are two arrow heads and a tomahawk. In the margin are the words: "Wellesley, April 6, 1881." The open book represents Wellesley College; the flower across the pages, the Hunnewell gardens; and the arrows and tomahawk, the early association with the Indians, all appropriate to some phase of Wellesley's history.

#### WATERWORKS

In the fall of 1882, about eighteen months after the town was incorporated, it was voted at a town meeting to ask the Legislature for authority to establish a system of waterworks. At the same time a committee, of which Judge George White was chairman, was appointed to examine the various sources of supply and report a plan for furnishing water to the inhabitants. In response to the town's request, the Legislature passed an act, which was approved on May 5, 1883, authorizing Wellesley to supply itself and its inhabitants with water for extinguishing fires, for domestic purposes, etc., and to take water from the Charles River and Longfellow's Pond, lay mains, locate hydrants and provide the necessary pumping facilities. In order to construct the works, the town was also authorized to borrow a sum of money not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, and to issue bonds, notes or scrip therefor. The act was to become effective when accepted by two-thirds of the legal voters.

The committee on water supply reported that the most feasible plan was to erect a pumping station, take water from the Charles River and pump it to a reservoir on Maugus Hill, from which it could be distributed to practically the entire town.

By an act of the Legislature, approved on June 28, 1883, the Town of Natick was authorized to make a contract with the selectmen of Wellesley to supply that town with water, and to extend its mains into Wellesley for that purpose, the act to take effect immediately upon its passage. The people of Wellesley, however, preferred to own a plant of their own. The provisions of the act of May 5, 1883, were accepted by more than two-thirds of the voters, and the report of the committee on water supply was adopted. Work was commenced, but it was soon discovered that the \$50,000 loan was not sufficient, and on February 12, 1884, the Legislature authorized the town to borrow \$75,000 more. A third loan of \$50,000 was authorized by the act of May 7, 1885.

The machinery at the pumping station was installed by the Goulds Manufacturing Company and the George F. Blake Manufacturing Company and has a daily capacity of 3,000,000 gallons. The first water was supplied to consumers in 1884, though extensions have been made every year since that time, until at the close of the year 1916 there were nearly forty-eight miles of mains and 370 hydrants. The total cost of the works to January 1, 1917, was \$481,155.80, and the amount of outstanding bonds was \$119,915.56. During the year 1916 the system supplied to the town and its inhabitants 182,133,407 gallons of water, for which the town received in water rates \$27,839.23.

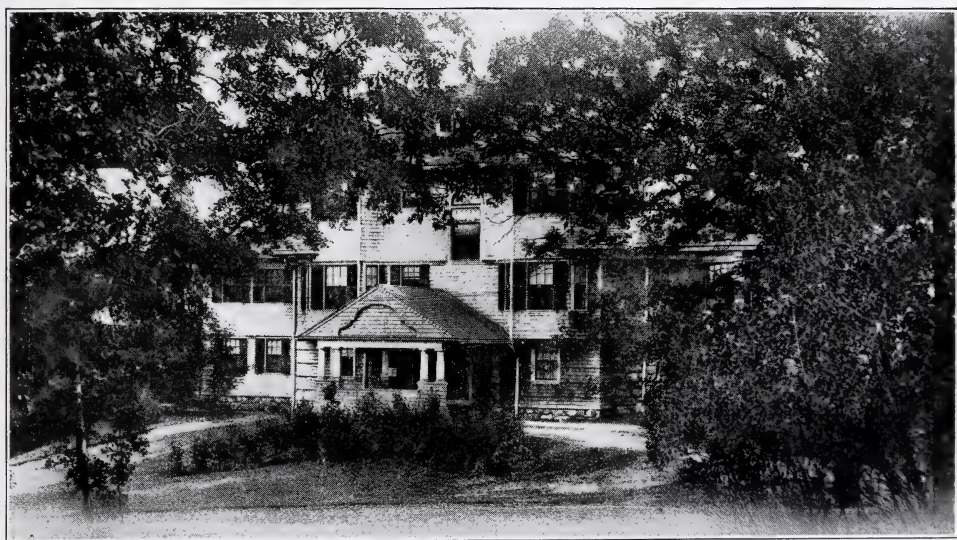
The first board of water commissioners, elected on December 22, 1883, was composed of Albion R. Clapp, William S. Ware and Walter Hunnewell. The board at the beginning of 1917 was composed of Frank L. Fuller, Charles E. Fuller and Francis C. Hersey. This board also has the management of the electric light plant, which was established a few years ago. It consists of a sub-station 26 by 43 feet, built of brick, steel and concrete, one story and basement, and a frame shed 25 by 32 feet for storing wagons and material. In the sub-station is a switchboard connecting feeders from the Edison Company's transformers with the primary commercial circuits and the street light circuits. The total cost of this plant to January 1, 1917, was \$113,363. During the year 1916 the income from this plant was \$40,272.22.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

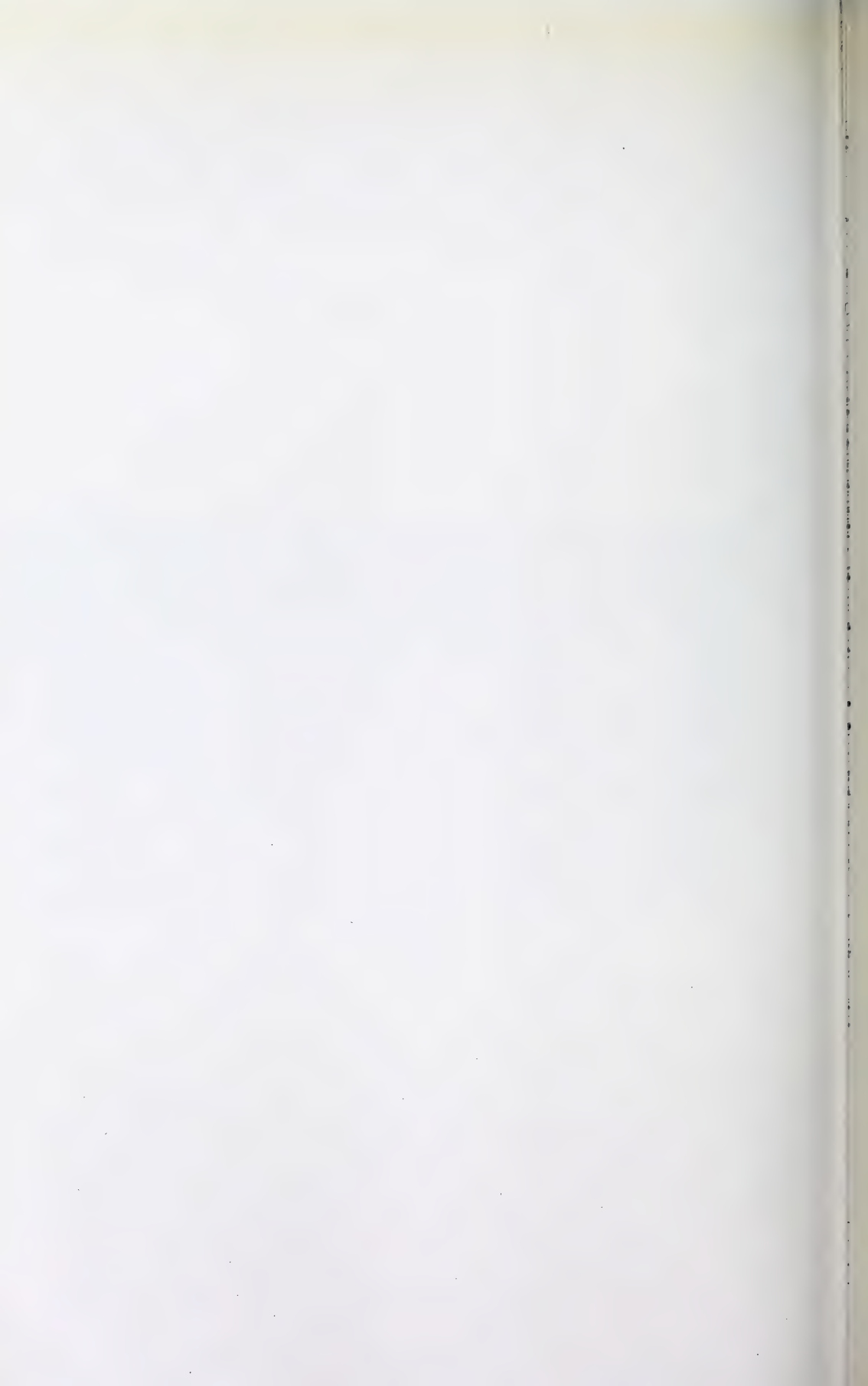
The Wellesley Fire Department consists of four companies, to wit: Hose Company No. 1, composed of seven men; Hose Company No. 2, eight men; Hose Company No. 3, six men; Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, eight men, a total of twenty-nine men, exclusive of John P. Doyle, chief of the department, and John W. Fowle, superintendent of the fire alarm system. During the year 1916 the Wellesley fire alarm system was connected with that of Newton, so that the department of that city may be called in case of a fire which the local department is unable to control. In their report for the year, the selectmen recommend that the entire department be motorized, and suggest that this be done by an issue of bonds for the purchase of the new apparatus. Chief Doyle, in his report for 1916 states that the department answered calls on forty-three occasions, the value of the buildings at risk being \$284,480, value of contents, \$62,710, and that the total fire loss for the year was \$55,445.

#### SEWER SYSTEM

In 1907 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Town of Wellesley to elect a board of sewer commissioners, which should have charge of the construction of a sewer system for the town. No commissioners were elected under this act until March 8, 1915, when William H. Blood, Jr., Isaac Sprague and Charles E. Fuller were chosen at the annual town meeting, "to have charge of the construction of a system of sewers for Wellesley." The work of sewer building was commenced in 1915, the commissioners making a contract with Coleman Brothers for certain lines of sewer. In 1916 the same commissioners were again elected and in their report for the year 1916 they say:



THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, WELLESLEY COLLEGE



"During the year the construction of the main trunk sewer from the Wellesley-Needham line to a point near the junction of Washington Street and Longfellow Road in Wellesley Hills has been completed. Additional lateral sewers have been constructed in parts of Wellesley Village, in the Abbott Road district, Wellesley Hills and in other streets south of Washington Street in Wellesley Hills. To the main trunk sewer have been added 6,610 feet, making the total length of this sewer constructed to date 20,826 feet. During the year 38,428 feet of lateral sewers have been built, making the length of lateral sewers completed, 49,506 feet. . . . Proposals for bids for additional work on sewer construction to be undertaken during the year 1916, were published early in May, and the bids were received and opened May 18th. The contract was awarded to John E. Palmer of Boston. . . . During the latter part of May proposals for bids for house connections were published and bids were received and opened June 1st. The contract was awarded to Charles N. Taylor of Wellesley."

The total cost of sewers to December 31, 1916, was \$202,023. At the same time the amount of sewer bonds outstanding was \$225,000. With the completion of the system as planned by the commissioners, the Town of Wellesley will be as well provided with sewers as any town in the state.

#### PUBLIC BATH HOUSE

In the report of the selectmen for the year 1916 is the following statement: "During the past year Wellesley College offered the town the use of its bath houses on Lake Waban for bathing purposes in the summer season, and this offer was accepted by the selectmen, and the value of the generous offer of the college has been demonstrated while the bathing privileges have been in use. Mr. Joseph E. Curry was installed as superintendent in charge of the bath houses and the board believes that from a sanitary standpoint, as well as that of pleasure, the proposition has been a tremendous success. The board will therefore recommend at the March meeting that something be done along permanent lines to insure the establishment of permanent bath houses."

#### MODERN WELLESLEY

Some idea of the growth of Wellesley since its incorporation may be gained from the following comparative statement: In 1881 the assessed valuation of property was \$3,024,698, and in 1916 it was \$22,645,434; the total appropriations in 1881 amounted to \$28,550, and in 1916 to \$319,765; the total net debt at the close of the year 1881 was \$50,000, and at the close of 1916 it was \$509,915. In 1910 the population, according to the United States census, was 5,413, and the state census of 1915 reported a population of 6,439, a gain of 1,026 in five years. Wellesley has seven modern public school buildings and is the seat of Wellesley College, the history of which is given in another chapter. In 1916 the town paid \$66,583 for the support of its public schools. The town has one national and one private bank, two newspapers, besides the Wellesley College News, Congregational, Catholic, Unitarian and Episcopal churches, a number of manufacturing and mercantile establishments, steam and electric railway lines,

etc. The following, which was written of the town in 1883, is applicable today: "The charm of the Town of Wellesley consists in its refined rural atmosphere, its pleasant homes, its delightful drives and its beautiful landscape scenery."

#### TOWN OFFICERS

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town offices were held by the following incumbents: Otho L. Schofield, Harrison A. Plympton and Patrick J. Fitzpatrick, selectmen; Flavius J. Lake, Franklin B. Ingraham and Job Monaghan, assessors; John T. Ryan, clerk; Fred O. Johnson, treasurer; John H. Sheridan, tax collector; Richard Cunningham, auditor; Dr. Gilbert N. Jones, Dr. Royal Hatch and Frederick D. Woods, board of health; Sara S. Gilson, Charles A. Sibley and Sydney M. Williams, school committee; Thomas T. Watt, Charles E. Fuller and William H. Brainerd, park commissioners; Charles L. Cavanaugh, William J. Dana and Claude U. Gilson, constables. The board of selectmen also acted as overseers of the poor, highway surveyors, town agents and fence viewers.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### THE TOWN OF WESTWOOD

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—EARLY HISTORY—THIRD PARISH OF DEDHAM—WESTWOOD  
INCORPORATED—ACT OF INCORPORATION—FIRST TOWN MEETING—TOWN HALL—  
POSTOFFICES—FIRE DEPARTMENT—TOWN OFFICERS, 1917—WESTWOOD OF TODAY.

Westwood, one of the comparatively new towns of Norfolk County, is centrally located, being bounded on the north and east by Dedham; on the south-east by Canton; on the south by Norwood; and on the west by Walpole and Dover. The Neponset River flows along the eastern boundary line, separating Westwood from Canton, and in the western part the town is watered by Mill Brook, Bubbling Brook and Buckminster Pond. The surface is diversified and from some of the highest hilltops a fine view of the surrounding country may be obtained.

#### EARLY HISTORY

The territory comprising the Town of Westwood was included in the original plantation on the Charles River, which was ordered to be established by the General Court on September 3, 1635, and was incorporated as the Town of Dedham on September 8, 1636. The history of Westwood is therefore a part of the history of Dedham from 1635 until its incorporation as a separate town in 1897.

On October 8, 1730, the present towns of Norwood and Westwood were incorporated by an act of the General Court as the "South Precinct of Dedham." A controversy soon arose in the new precinct over the location of the meeting house, with the result that several petitions were presented to the General Court, asking that body to settle the dispute by sending a committee to view the situation and decide on a location for the said meeting house. In response to one of these petitions, a number of the inhabitants of the South Precinct were "set off from said Precinct & again layed to the First Precinct in the Town of Dedham. whereunto they originally Belonged."

Those who were thus reunited with the old parish were not satisfied with the situation in which they were placed, owing to the distance they had to go to attend public worship, and on April 13, 1734, a petition was signed by Joseph Ellis and others, asking that they be set off as a separate parish or precinct, with authority to build a meeting house and employ a minister, and to be exempt from paying rates to the Town of Dedham for the support of the minister in the First Parish. Although the prayer of the petitioners was not at that time granted, they organized a religious society on June 4, 1735, and installed Rev. Josiah

Dwight, a son of Capt. Timothy Dwight, as their pastor. The parish was finally incorporated as the "Clapboard Trees" parish on January 10, 1736, and was known as the Third Parish of Dedham. The name clapboard trees no doubt was derived from the fact that in that vicinity grew timber suitable for making clapboards to cover the dwelling houses erected by the early settlers. On January 17, 1836, Rev. John White, then pastor of the church in the Third Parish, preached a historical sermon, reviewing the growth and work of the parish during the one hundred years of its existence.

#### WESTWOOD INCORPORATED

In the course of time the parish became known as "West Dedham," under which name it continued until the early part of the year 1897, when the following petition was presented to the Legislature:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

"The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Dedham in said Commonwealth, respectfully represent that they are inhabitants of the village of West Dedham, in the said town, or of parts of said town most nearly allied in interest with said West Dedham; that they are desirous of having the village of West Dedham, with a certain other portion of the territory of the said Town of Dedham, set off as a separate town under the name of West Dedham, or such other name as to the General Court may seem suitable; and that the boundaries of such new town be fixed as follows:—Beginning at a line near the bridge across the Neponset River near Green Lodge Station, so called, upon the Boston & Providence Railroad; thence in a straight line to the junction of Canton and East streets; thence in a straight line to the junction of Washington and Elm streets; thence in a straight line to the junction of Grove and High streets; thence to the boundary stone between the towns of Dedham and Needham which is nearest to the Town of Dover, and on all other sides by the towns of Dover, Walpole, Norwood and Canton, as the town lines now exist."

This petition, which was signed by Calvin S. Locke, Luther A. Eaton, Henry E. Weatherbee and "twenty-two others," resulted in a bill granting the prayer of the petitioners being introduced in the House of Representatives on February 23, 1897. After a thorough consideration of the subject by that branch of the Legislature, the bill was passed and on March 11th was sent to the Senate. In due time it passed the Senate and on April 2, 1897, the governor gave his approval to the following

#### ACT OF INCORPORATION

"Be it enacted, etc., That all the territory now within the Town of Dedham which lies southwesterly of the following described line, that is to say: Beginning at the Neponset River at the center of said river and the easterly line of Greenlodge Street, where said street crosses said river; thence running north,  $47^{\circ} 45'$  west, a distance of seven thousand six hundred and forty-eight and seven-tenths feet through private lands and crossing Greenlodge Street, to a point on the northerly side of East Street; thence by a course north,  $70^{\circ} 55'$



TOWN HALL, WESTWOOD



POSTOFFICE AND HIGH SCHOOL, WESTWOOD



west, a distance of five thousand five hundred and eighty-six and forty-six-hundredths feet through private lands and crossing the roadbed of the New England Railroad, Elm Street and the roadbed of the Norfolk County Railroad, to a point on the northerly side of Washington Street at the junction of Gay Street with said Washington Street; thence by a course north,  $45^{\circ} 26'$  west, a distance of seven thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine and seven-tenths feet through private lands and crossing the Sandy Valley road, to a point on the northerly side of High Street at the junction of Grove Street with said High Street; thence running by a course north,  $50^{\circ} 22'$  west, a distance of nine thousand one hundred and forty-seven feet through private lands and crossing Westfield Street, to a point in the center of Charles River; thence running southwesterly along said Charles River a distance of three hundred and forty feet, about to the present dividing line between the towns of Dover and Dedham, where said line meets the Charles River—is hereby incorporated into a separate town, by the name of Westwood; and the said Town of Westwood is hereby vested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and shall be subject to all the duties and requirements to which other towns are entitled and subject, under the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.”

Other sections of the act relate to the payment of taxes, the care of paupers and the division of town property and debt, in about the same language as that usually used in the incorporation of new towns. Some of the petitioners wanted to name the town “Nahatan,” but the Legislature decided upon the name of “Westwood.”

#### FIRST TOWN MEETING

Pursuant to the provisions of the act of incorporation, W. W. Baker, a justice of the peace, issued his warrant to John Dean on April 6, 1897, directing him to notify the legal voters of a town meeting at Colburn Hall on Saturday, April 17, 1897. As this was the first meeting called in the new town, nearly every voter was present. Howard Colburn was chosen moderator and the meeting then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result: Benjamin Fisher, Henry E. Weatherbee and John L. Fisher, selectmen, surveyors of highways, overseers of the poor and board of health; Henry E. French, William Schlusemeyer and David A. Hodgdon, assessors; Willie W. Baker, clerk; George A. French, treasurer; Charles H. Ellis, tax collector; George Kingsbury, auditor; Calvin S. Locke, W. W. Baker and Crawford D. Place, school committee; John Dean, George W. Thompson and Isaac H. Carter, constables.

#### TOWN HALL

At a meeting held on June 15, 1909, it was voted to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the erection of a new town hall, and a building committee was appointed. Hurd & Gore, architects of Boston, submitted a design which was accepted, and the contract was awarded to Frank C. Woodward. The building was completed in 1911. On the first floor are the town offices and a small hall; the second floor is occupied by a large hall, with the customary anterooms; and in the basement is a banquet hall and the town lock-up. The building is a substantial

edifice of brick and stone and is surmounted by a tower in which is a clock. Westwood has one of the best town halls in the county.

#### POSTOFFICES

"West Dedham" postoffice was established in 1824, with Jason Ellis as postmaster. When the Town of Westwood was incorporated, the name of the postoffice was changed to correspond to that of the town. During the ninety-three years that this postoffice has been in existence, it has had but three postmasters. Jason Ellis served for a number of years, when he was succeeded by Theodore Gay, who served until 1880, when the present incumbent, Charles H. Ellis, was appointed. The only other postoffice in the town is at Islington. It is of comparatively recent origin.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Westwood has four fire companies, three of which were inherited from Dedham. Nearly opposite the town hall is the building occupied by the Franklin Engine Company No. 1, and Hose Company No. 1. There is another fire station near the Unitarian Church and one at Pond Plain, both equipped with hand engines and hose carts, and at Islington, in the eastern part of the town, is a chemical engine. The cost of maintaining the department for the year 1916 was \$1,529. All the apparatus is of rather obsolete pattern and in their report for the year 1916 the board of engineers recommended the purchase of a combination auto truck, but their recommendation had not been approved by the town at the close of the year.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1917

At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town offices were occupied by the following incumbents: Henry E. Weatherbee, Herbert W. Bonney and George C. Lee, selectmen; William L. Lucey, William H. McLaren and Benjamin F. White, assessors; Willie W. Baker, clerk (Mr. Baker has held the office of town clerk ever since Westwood was incorporated); Edward S. Colburn, treasurer; Charles H. Ellis, tax collector; Richard Lennihan, Carrol H. Draper and Granville W. Baker, auditors; Mrs. Louisa C. Perkins, John C. Mulvehill and William H. Spokesfield, school committee; Frederick Fisher, Albert C. Crocker and Thomas H. Kelly, constables. The selectmen also serve as overseers of the poor, surveyors of highways and board of health.

#### WESTWOOD OF TODAY

Westwood is a typical rural town. Without bank, manufacturing enterprises or a newspaper, the people "pursue the even tenor of their way." The town has two public school buildings—the Colburn School at Westwood and the Islington School—Baptist, Congregational and Unitarian churches, a public library, and well kept highways. But the town's greatest attraction is its homes, nearly all of which are owned by the occupants, who take commendable pride in keeping up their premises. In 1910 the population was 1,266 and in 1915 it was 1,448, a gain of 222 in five years. The assessed valuation of property in 1916 was \$5,924,108, an increase of \$1,139,222 over that of the preceding year.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### THE TOWN OF WEYMOUTH

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES—SURFACE AND DRAINAGE—SETTLEMENT—THE GORGES COMPANY—THE HULL COMPANY—ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES—THE INDIAN TITLE—EARLY LANDOWNERS—INDIAN WARS—THE SOUTH PRECINCT—ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE TOWN—ALMSHOUSES—POSTOFFICES—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—ELECTRIC LIGHT—TOWN HALL—FISHERIES—FINANCIAL HISTORY—WEYMOUTH OF THE PRESENT—TOWN OFFICERS.

Weymouth is the most eastern of the Norfolk County towns except Cohasset, which is detached from the main body of the county. On the north, Weymouth is bounded by the Massachusetts Bay; on the east by the Town of Hingham; on the south by Plymouth County; and on the west by Braintree and Holbrook. From north to south it is a little over nine miles in extent and its average width is about two and a half miles. It has a water front on the Weymouth Fore and Back Rivers of over eight miles.

#### SURFACE AND DRAINAGE

While the general surface of the town is undulating, there are only two hills of notable prominence—Great Hill on the shore of the bay in the northern part and King Oak Hill, about a mile farther south. A considerable portion of the area is covered by ponds, the largest of which is Great Pond, also known as Wessagusset Lake, in the southerly part. It is over a mile and a fourth long and about a third of a mile in width. Whitman's Pond, in the central portion, is next in size, being nearly as long as Great Pond but not so wide. Whortleberry Pond, a small circular body of water, lies a little south of Whitman's Pond, and Rolling Mill Pond is connected with Whitman's.

Mill River, the outlet of Great Pond, passes through Whitman's Pond to Back River, a distance, following its meanderings, of some five or six miles. Old Swamp River rises in Hingham and flows into Whitman's Pond. These two rivers are the only streams of consequence in the town. Both have fine water privileges which have been utilized to some extent for manufacturing purposes.

#### SETTLEMENT

In June, 1622, about sixty men came over from England in two small vessels—the Charity and the Swan—and landed on the north shore of what is now the Town of Weymouth at a place called by the Indians "Wessagusset" (also written Wessagusset). The place where they established their settlement is on the south bank

of the Fore River, a little east of Hunt's Hill Point. Back of this expedition was Thomas Weston, a merchant of London, who had been associated with the Pilgrims in their negotiations with the Plymouth Company, and whose dream was to establish a trading post that would yield large profits.

Unfortunately, in the selection of men to carry out his project, he accepted any one willing to join the expedition without regard to his qualifications for the work in hand. These men came without families, had no definite idea of the methods to be followed, and no settled habits of industry. Being without a competent leader, they soon became dissatisfied with their surroundings, neglected their work, and, as might be expected, they were soon reduced to the verge of starvation. They appealed to the Plymouth colony for assistance, but the people there were far from opulent and could not help them. It is said that ten of the number actually perished of starvation. After the expedition of Miles Standish in March, 1623 (see Chap. IV), the company disbanded, the men going in different directions, and by the summer of 1623 not one was left at Wessagusset. Thus ended in failure the first attempt to plant a settlement in Weymouth.

#### THE GORGES COMPANY

A few months after the disappearance of the Weston colony, probably in early September, 1623, another expedition sailed up the Fore River and landed at the deserted plantation. It was led by Robert Gorges, a son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, acting under a charter from the Plymouth Company. The men who came with Captain Gorges were of a different type from those sent over by Weston the year before, one of them being Rev. William Morrell, a minister of the Church of England. The charter gave them "ten miles of the coast on the northeast side of the Massachusetts Bay and extending thirty miles inland." In selecting the place to begin his settlement, Gorges no doubt thought Wessagusset was covered by the grant. Says Gilbert Nash: "They chose their ten miles evidently to include the entrance to Boston Harbor, and this mistake, if mistake it were, was the cause of much trouble in the future." Mr. Nash says further: "The plan of the colony was projected upon a scale of magnificent proportions and with machinery sufficient to conduct the affairs of an empire. Captain Gorges was named as Governor-General, with a general oversight of the company's officers in America, and authority by commission to carry out his plans. Associated with him in the government were Capt. Francis West, admiral; Christopher Levet, Esq., perhaps the chief judicial officer, and such others as the Governor-General chose to appoint, any two of whom, with himself, were empowered to transact any business necessary for the government of the colony. The governor of Plymouth, for the time being, was constituted a member of the government."

As soon as Governor Bradford of Plymouth learned that the company had arrived at Wessagusset, he made arrangements to visit the colony. Before he had time to put his design into execution, Gorges, while on a tour of inspection over his grant, encountered bad weather and took refuge at Plymouth. After remaining there a few days he returned by land to his settlement. Upon his arrival there it appears he for the first time exercised his authority as governor-general by causing the arrest of Thomas Weston, who had come into Plymouth Bay on the Swan, and ordering him and his vessel to be sent around to Wessagus-



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WESSAGUSSETT FROM GREAT HILL, NORTH WEYMOUTH



cus. Not long after this he returned to England, with a considerable portion of his company, "thoroughly disgusted with the work of founding an empire in the New World."

After the departure of Gorges, some of his colonists went to Virginia, Rev. William Morrell took up his temporary abode at Plymouth, and a few remained at Wessaguscus. In fact the settlement made by Gorges at Wessaguscus was never entirely broken up. Mr. Morrell went back to England in 1624 and the same year a number of emigrants from Weymouth, England, joined the little band on the shores of the Fore River. With them came a non-conformist minister by the name of Barnard, who remained in the settlement until his death. The records of the colony for the next few years are meager, though there is an occasional mention of the settlement at Wessaguscus, indicating continual though small accessions to the number of inhabitants. Governor Winthrop visited the place in 1632 and was "liberally entertained by those residing there," and in the next year Wessaguscus is mentioned as "a small village." All the evidence tends to show that the Gorges settlement was permanent and therefore the second settlement in Massachusetts.

#### THE HULL COMPANY

On July 8, 1635, the General Court granted permission to Rev. Joseph Hull, with twenty-one families, numbering about one hundred persons, to settle at Wessaguscus. This was the largest addition, perhaps, that was ever made to the settlement at any one time in its history. The members of this company were people of sober and industrious habits and they were welcomed with joy by those who had preceded them. They came from the Town of Weymouth, England, and quickly acquired prominence in the new settlement with which they now cast their lot. Mr. Hull became for a time the minister of the town. On September 2, 1635, the settlement was erected into a plantation and the name was then changed to Weymouth. The next day the plantation was ordered to send a representative to the General Court. Although an infant settlement, there were three political factions in the plantation. The first represented those of the Gorges company who had not abandoned the place; the second was made up of those who came from other towns in the colony; and the third was composed of those who came over with Mr. Hull in the summer. The first faction voted for John Bursley, the second for William Reade, and the third for John Upham. The court recognized Mr. Reade and the other two were compelled to retire.

Regarding the change of name from Wessaguscus to Weymouth, the Massachusetts Historical Collections (Vol. XXI, p. 396) says the reason for the adoption of the new name is unknown, "but probably in honor of Capt. George Weymouth, the navigator. It is to be noted that, 20th March, 1635, about one hundred persons are recorded at Weymouth, County Dorset, England, as bound hither." There is little doubt that the name was suggested by some member of Mr. Hull's company as a tribute of respect to the old home town in England.

#### ADJUSTING THE BOUNDARIES

The Colonial Records of Massachusetts show that in March, 1635, a committee was chosen to fix the boundaries between Wessaguscus and Mount Wollaston.

and in July following another committee was charged with the duty of establishing the line between Wessagusset and Bare Cove (now Hingham). Notice that the former of these committees was appointed before the arrival of the Hull company and is another evidence that a permanent settlement existed in Weymouth.

From the time of Weymouth's incorporation in 1635 for several years afterward, the boundary lines between Plymouth County on the south and the Town of Braintree on the west appear to have been a question of frequent disputes. Committees were several times appointed by Weymouth to join with a committee from Braintree in running and marking the line between the two towns, but for some reason Braintree declined to act. Finally the people of Weymouth lost patience and at a town meeting held on June 13, 1712, instructed the selectmen to bring an action against the selectmen of Braintree for their persistent refusal to run the dividing line as the law provided, and voted to stand by them in any suit brought for that purpose. If such an action was ever instituted in the courts, it seems that it failed to accomplish its end, as the Weymouth-Braintree line was not settled until in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century.

#### THE INDIAN TITLE

Although the English Government granted to Robert Gorges a tract of land embracing ten miles of sea coast and extending thirty miles into the interior, the grant did not dispossess the Indians, who were the real owners of the land. Therefore, the first settlers at Wessagusset were what might be termed "squatters," so far as the Indian title was concerned. Their title was merely that of possession, but back of that possession there was nothing which would enable them to hold the land upon which they had located before it was really in the possession of either the Plymouth or Massachusetts Bay Company. No one realized the precarious character of their tenure better than themselves and negotiations were set on foot to purchase the land from the Indians. The Indians did not own land as individuals, but as a tribe. A purchase from the chiefs bound every member of the tribe to their action. On April 26, 1642, a deed was executed by the resident chiefs, who signed themselves as Wampetuck, alias Jonas Webacowett, Nateaunt and Nahawton. This deed is recorded among the deeds of Suffolk County. With the execution of this deed, the town was in a position to allot the lands and confirm the inhabitants in their possessions. The list of landowners made soon afterward indicate that this was done.

#### EARLY LANDOWNERS

Says Mr. Nash: "In this list, which is very incomplete as will be easily seen, there are the names of seventy-one persons with a general description of the property owned by them. In these descriptions the names of seventeen others are mentioned, from whom some of the property was purchased, or to whom the original grants were made. There are also mentioned as owners of property bounding the different lots described, the names of fifty-two, who do not appear in the other two classes, yet who must have been property owners or they could not have been abutters, making in all 123, at least, real estate owners at the time the list was made up. Why this large number escaped record we have no means



INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, LOOKING NORTH,  
SOUTH WEYMOUTH



COLUMBIAN SQUARE, SOUTH WEYMOUTH



of knowing, but since such is the fact we may reasonably infer that many others may have been omitted altogether, and that the full number was originally much greater; in fact we have evidence that this was so, from incidental mention in the later records. Taking, however, the lists as they come to us, we have the names of 123, without doubt most of them heads of families. These with an average of five to a family, a moderate estimate for those days, would furnish a population of more than 600."

Of the 123 landowners mentioned by Mr. Nash, only seventeen are recognized as members of the Hull company which came over in 1635. John Bursley, William Jeffries and a man named Ludden are recognized as members of the Gorges company and had no doubt maintained their residence there from the year 1623. Others in the list were Robert Abell, Henry Adams, John Allen, Stephen French, John Glover, Walter Harris, Edmond Hart, James Parker, Thomas Richards, Thomas Rawlins, Clement Briggs, Richard Sylvester and Clement Weaver, all of whom were living in Weymouth as early as 1630.

#### INDIAN WARS

Probably one reason for the selection of Wessagusset for a settlement was the fact that there were but few Indians living in the immediate vicinity. Although in a retired spot, the settlement was not altogether free from the effects of Indian depredations in other parts of the province. In 1637, when 160 men were called for to serve in the war with the Pequot Indians, Weymouth's quota was five men. They were furnished, and from that time until after King Philip's war the town always contributed both in men and money to the various expeditions sent against the savages.

In the French and Indian war, forty Weymouth men served in Col. Benjamin Lincoln's regiment in the expeditions of 1755 and 1756 to Crown Point and Lake George. These forty men were members of a company commanded by Capt. Samuel Thaxter. Colonel Lincoln was afterward promoted to general, and Lieut. Solomon Lovell, one of the Weymouth company also became a general in the Revolution. When the British captured Nova Scotia (then called Acadia) in 1755, the inhabitants were forced to abandon their homes and a large number of them was brought to Boston. They were known as "French Neuters," and as no provision had been made for their care and support, they were divided into small companies and sent to the various towns. Weymouth received its share of these unfortunates. On March 8, 1756, the records of the town meeting show that Dr. Nathaniel White was paid eight shillings per week for a year for keeping French Neuters, and on the last day of February, 1761, James Humphrey was allowed six pounds for a similar purpose.

#### THE SOUTH PRECINCT

As the town increased its population the settlements gradually extended over practically the entire territory. Being a long, narrow town, those living in the southern part were placed at a disadvantage in the matter of school and church conveniences. Schools could be provided at comparatively small expense, but the church difficulty was not so easily settled. The church had already been located

and built in the northern part of the town, and those living near the meeting house looked with decided opposition upon the proposal to establish a new church for the benefit of those living farther south, arguing that the town was too poor to bear the burden.

In 1722 the people of the southern portion came to the determination to ask the General Court to set them off as a distinct town or precinct. The north part, feeling secure in its majority of voters, was just as fully determined to oppose the movement. A town meeting was called and a committee appointed to oppose the petition in the General Court. A majority of the members of the Court, however, recognized the justice of the petitioners' request and in the spring of 1723 the petition was granted. The South Precinct was then organized with an area embracing more than half of the town. There were still occasional difficulties over the possession of the parsonage property, which was in the North Precinct, and which the people there refused to relinquish.

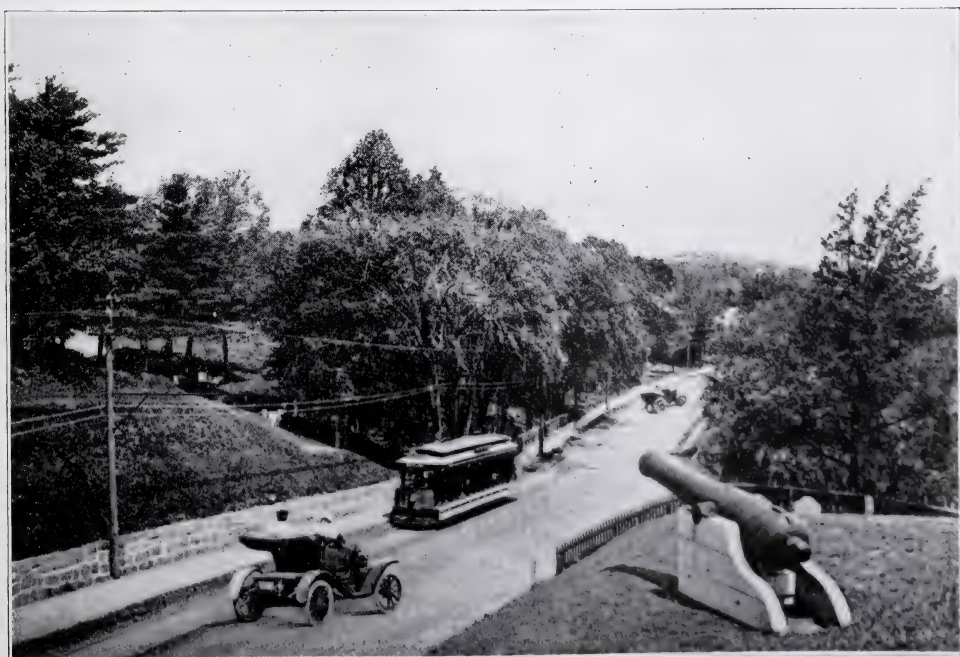
During the next forty years the South Precinct steadily gained in numbers and influence and on March 24, 1761, that section of the town was strong enough to define the word "ministry" in the parsonage deed to include both ministers, and that each should draw his income from the town revenues in proportion to the amount of tax paid by his parish. A meeting house had been erected in the South Precinct about the time the petition was presented to the General Court in 1722. The parish was organized on June 21, 1723, and the Second Congregational Church, of South Weymouth, now the Old South Church, was organized on September 18, 1723, with Rev. James Bayley as pastor.

#### ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE TOWN

In 1796 another effort was made to divide the town. This time the North Precinct was the aggressor. A petition to that effect was prepared and signed by a majority of the residents of the North Precinct, for presentation to the General Court. The South Precinct was practically unanimous in its opposition. Nothing came of that petition and for the next six or seven years the subject was one of constant discussion by the citizens and in the town meetings. In 1802 a census was taken, showing 965 inhabitants in the North Precinct and 838 in the South. The question came before the Legislature and the Senate voted in favor of the division, but the House refused to concur. The whole question was then referred to the next session of the General Court, and there the matter ended. A few spasmodic attempts have been made since then to bring about a division, but without any prospect of success. One of these was made in the town meeting of March 19, 1866, when by a vote of 269 to 239 an order was made for the division of the town upon the line forming the northerly boundary of the fifth and sixth school districts, and a committee of one from each district was appointed to carry the vote into effect, but nothing was done. At the annual meeting in March, 1878, attention was called to the failure of the committee to discharge its assigned duty, and the selectmen, with three from each ward (twenty in all), were constituted a committee to consider the matter and report. Their report was made at the next annual meeting, March 3, 1879, "that it is inexpedient to divide the town at this time," and there the whole matter ended. Another effort was made about fifteen years later, but it also came to naught.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS



VIEW FROM SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS



## ALMSHOUSES

In 1779, after several unsuccessful efforts, it was voted to build a "work-house near the center of the town, not far from Tirrell's mill, for the accommodation of the poor." Owing to the hardships imposed upon the people by the Revolutionary war, and various other causes, the number of paupers had increased to such an extent as to require this action on the part of the town. The house then erected was used as an almshouse until 1809, when another was erected at Weymouth Landing for the same purpose. The house at Weymouth Landing was used until the establishment of the town farm, on Essex Street, in 1839.

Early on the morning of September 14, 1917, fire was discovered in the town farm buildings. At that time there were eighteen inmates in the institution, all of whom were saved except Mrs. Mary Rosa, eighty-five years of age, who perished in the flames. Being a cripple, she was unable to escape. The loss was \$40,000. At a special town meeting held on Friday evening, September 28, 1917, the sum of \$40,000 was appropriated for a new building.

## POSTOFFICES

On February 6, 1804, the town instructed the selectmen to petition the postmaster-general for a postoffice to be established at the head of navigation on the Fore River. The petition was granted and the postoffice was named Weymouth. It was the first postoffice in the town, but the writer has been unable to learn the name of the first postmaster or any of the history of the office in its early days. At the beginning of the year 1917 there were four postoffices in the town, located at Weymouth, East Weymouth, North Weymouth and South Weymouth.

## SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

Weymouth furnished nearly six hundred and fifty men for the Union army in the War of the Rebellion, over one hundred of whom were killed in action or died while in the service of the United States. The war was scarcely at an end when a movement was started to erect a monument to commemorate their services in behalf of their country. After several meetings an appropriation was made and the monument was erected in the old North Cemetery. It stands upon a terrace on the easterly side of the highway, a plain granite obelisk, a suitable tribute on the part of the people of Weymouth in behalf of the memory of those who sacrificed their lives upon the altar of their country. The monument was dedicated in 1868.

## WATERWORKS

For several years prior to 1880, the question of utilizing the waters of Great Pond as a supply for the town had been discussed in private conversations and in town meetings, but nothing was accomplished until April 6, 1881, when the Legislature passed an act authorizing the town to use the waters of the pond for extinguishing fires, domestic purposes, lay mains, set hydrants, etc., when the act was accepted by a two-thirds vote of the town.

Two years passed and the act had not been accepted by the voters. On May 3, 1883, Peter W. French, Leavitt Bates, Zachariah L. Bicknell, John P. Lovell, Nathan D. Canterbury, Marshall C. Dizer, Joseph Totman and their associates and successors were incorporated as the East Weymouth Water Company, "for the purpose of furnishing the inhabitants of the Town of Weymouth with water from Weymouth Great Pond and the waters which flow into it," and to connect with the pipes of the Hingham Water Company at the boundary line. The Town of Weymouth was given the power to purchase the franchise and property of the company at any time during the life of its charter.

The passage of this act served as a stimulus to the people of Weymouth to accept the provisions of the act of 1881, which was done at a special town meeting called for the purpose on September 18, 1883. The vote in favor of acceptance was 356 to 114. At an adjourned meeting on the 25th Josiah Reed, Augustus J. Richards and Henry A. Nash were elected water commissioners. In the meantime the waters of Great Pond had been subjected to an analysis and the meeting voted an appropriation of \$1,000 to employ an engineer to make survey and submit plans for a system of waterworks. Oran White and Thomas H. Humphrey were added to the board of water commissioners.

The board employed M. M. Tidd to examine the waters of Great Pond and make plans for the waterworks. He reported a plan including thirty-seven miles of mains, with the Great Pond as the source of supply, and estimated the cost of such a plant as contemplated at \$296,000. At the annual meeting on March 3, 1884, it was voted to issue bonds to the amount of \$300,000, the vote on the question being 529 to 231.

On May 12, 1885, the act incorporating the East Weymouth Water Company was repealed, because it came in conflict with the act of April 6, 1881, which granted to the town the right to use the waters of Great Pond to supply the inhabitants of the town.

In the construction of the works a pumping station was built at South Weymouth to lift the water from Great Pond to a reservoir, also at South Weymouth, whence it is supplied to the town by gravity. The pumping machinery was installed by the George F. Blake Manufacturing Company and the Deane Steam Pump Works, each having a daily capacity of 1,500,000 gallons. The reservoir has a capacity of 700,000 gallons. At the close of the year 1916 the system embraced 76.55 miles of mains, 453 hydrants, with 1,940 meters in use. The total number of gallons pumped during the year was 141,126,790. According to the statement of the town accountant, the cost of the plant to December 31, 1916, was \$600,339.35.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

About 1830 a company of volunteer firemen was organized at Weymouth Landing and a small hand engine called the "Aquarius" was purchased. For many years this company was the only fire protection in the town, except the primitive "bucket brigade," which passed the buckets from hand to hand, back and forth, the man nearest the fire dashing the water upon the flames, unless the fire was too hot for him to get within reach, in which case the only thing to do was to protect the adjoining buildings from destruction.



FORT POINT BIRD'S-EYE VIEW FROM GREAT HILL, NORTH WEYMOUTH



GREAT HILL FROM QUINCY POINT BRIDGE, NORTH WEYMOUTH



The town was divided into fire districts about 1844 and hand engines provided. The next month the order was rescinded, and nothing further was done until the annual meeting on March 5, 1877, when a committee of three from each ward was chosen to organize a fire department. The committee reported in May in favor of the purchase of three fire engines, three hose carriages, and two hook and ladder trucks, also to build three engine houses and construct five reservoirs. The appropriation asked to carry out this plan was \$18,000, which was voted by the meeting and the Weymouth Fire Department became a reality. In January, 1878, an appropriation of \$1,100 was made for the purchase of another hand engine, and in May the sum of \$2,000 was voted for an engine and hose carriage.

In March, 1880, the first steam fire engine was purchased at a cost of \$3,200. It was stationed in the Third Ward, which caused the people of some of the other wards to look with some jealousy upon the proceeding, and in 1883 a second steamer was purchased for \$4,200 and placed in the Second Ward. The department now consists of seven hose companies and a hook and ladder company. Companies one, two, three and five are equipped with auto combination trucks; companies four, six and seven, and the "Hardscrabble" hook and ladder company with apparatus drawn by horses. The cost of maintenance for the year 1916 was \$14,690, and during the year the department answered forty-seven alarms.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT

The Town of Weymouth is lighted by electricity from the plant of C. D. Parker & Company (incorporated) of Boston, which operates about twenty such plants in the State of Massachusetts. The Weymouth plant began business in 1889. It now supplies the towns of Weymouth, Hull, Hingham, Randolph and Holbrook and furnishes power to a number of the shoe factories in Weymouth. Between the years 1910 and 1916 the works were generally overhauled, new machinery installed and the efficiency increased along all lines. The principal office of the company is in East Weymouth. The appropriation made by the annual meeting in March, 1916, for lighting the streets was \$12,500. At the close of the year a balance of \$219.10 was turned back into the town treasury. The committee on electric lighting in their report at the close of the year, says: "The Weymouth Light and Power Company have given us excellent service and have been ready and willing at all times to assist us in fulfilling their part of the contract."

#### TOWN HALL

Weymouth was without a town hall until 1852, when "a plain, inexpensive structure was built on the westerly side of Washington Street, at the corner of Middle Street, and very near the geographical center of the town." In 1907 it was taken down and rebuilt at East Weymouth, where it was burned in 1914 and since then the town offices have been housed on the second floor of the East Weymouth Savings Bank Building.

FISHERIES

During the early years of Weymouth's history a considerable portion of the food supply came from the fish taken from the ponds or the waters along the borders of the town. The principal dependence was placed upon the herring, or alewives, which came up into the ponds by way of the Back River to spawn. Mention is made of the "herringe broge" as early as 1648, indicating that the fishery dates back almost to the very beginning of the town. At a town meeting held on March 8, 1725, a committee was chosen "to treat with the mill owners on the river, by Bates', to make a convenient passage for fish into Whitman's Pond, to pay not over five pounds."

From that time the "alewives business" appears frequently in the town records. Officers were regularly chosen to take charge of the fisheries, preserve the fish, take and sell them during the proper seasons, the revenue thus derived being turned into the town treasury. In their report for the year 1916 the board of selectmen make the following statement relating to this subject:

"In compliance with authority conferred by the town, acting under Article 72 of the warrant for the last annual meeting, concerning the alewife fishery, the board communicated with George L. Wentworth, Esq., trustee of the John P. Lovell estate, and obtained the terms upon which the fishery could be leased by the town. The terms for the lease for the year 1916 were \$150, and suggested the sum of \$2,500 for which the fishery right would be conveyed to the town, subject to the approval of the beneficiaries.

"A lease was entered into for the year and Joseph H. Sherman was placed in charge of the fishery. . . . Mr. Sherman was instructed to make sure that a suitable number was taken to the pond and to give his personal care to the protection of the young fry during the progress to tide water. Twenty thousand fish were taken to the pond. The number sold was small. The cost of the fishery, including the lease, was \$377.71. The amount received from the sale of fish was \$34.43. [Each family received a certain quantity without charge.] As the fish do not return until the third year, it will take at least three years to build up the fishery to its former proportions. We recommend that the right be purchased by the town."

FINANCIAL HISTORY

In the annual town report for 1916 is given a comparative table showing the property valuation and expenditures from 1890 to 1916. During that period the valuation increased from \$6,441,845 to \$12,981,333, and the expenditures from \$130,696.86 to \$325,822.49. The principal expenditures for the year 1916 were as follows:

Schools .....	\$ 87,690.20
New school house, Ward 3.....	15,886.21
Highways .....	22,055.26
Sidewalks .....	4,363.37
Fire department .....	14,689.78
Police department .....	8,193.50



FOGG LIBRARY, SOUTH WEYMOUTH



GREAT POND, LOOKING NORTH, SOUTH WEYMOUTH



Health department .....	3,114.00
Poor department .....	25,767.57
Street lighting .....	12,280.90
Public libraries .....	5,877.94
Salaries .....	10,590.47
Interest .....	10,788.08
Moth suppression .....	6,470.99
Public parks .....	780.46
Applied on public debt.....	22,500.00
All other expenditures.....	74,048.73
Total .....	<u>\$325,822.49.</u>

In the amount expended by the poor department the sum of \$4,719.54 represented the receipts from the town farm. The auditors reported the town assets on December 31, 1916, as follows:

Real estate, school houses, etc.....	\$ 418,150.00
Waterworks .....	600,339.35
Personal property .....	60,166.54
Trust funds .....	15,900.00
Sinking funds .....	127,309.58
Uncollected dues .....	152,855.04
Tax deed property.....	3,518.92
Sidewalk appropriation .....	717.21
Cash on hand.....	38,431.35
Total .....	<u>\$1,418,387.99</u>

On the other side of the ledger the town's liabilities were set forth as follows:

Water bonds .....	\$221,000.00
Notes payable .....	226,200.00
E. B. Nevins school house appropriation.....	62,000.00
Trust funds .....	15,900.00
Miscellaneous .....	11,340.84
Total .....	<u>\$536,440.84</u>

These figures show a balance in favor of the town—the excess of assets over all liabilities—of \$881,947.15. Weymouth bonds command a premium whenever they are offered for sale, owing to the conservative management of public finances that has distinguished the town for years past. And with nearly three dollars in assets for every dollar of liabilities there is no good reason why her bonds should not continue to sell at a premium in the years to come.

#### WEYMOUTH OF THE PRESENT

Weymouth, the oldest incorporated town in Norfolk County, reported a population of 12,895 in 1910 and the state census of 1915 gave the town a

population of 13,969, a gain of 1,074. The town has four banks, three newspapers, two fine public libraries, churches of various denominations, seventeen school houses, well kept streets and sidewalks, and many pretty homes. The town exceeds all the other Norfolk County towns in the manufacture of boots and shoes. The Boston & Plymouth division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railway system (via Cohasset) passes through the northern part of the town, with stations at Weymouth, East Weymouth and Weymouth Heights. The Boston & Plymouth division of the same system (via Whitman) passes through the southern part, with a station at South Weymouth. There are also several lines of electric railway, hence the town is well supplied with transportation facilities. The town owns three public parks—Webb Park, Beals Park and Great Hill Park—which are being gradually improved and beautified, that future generations may have places for rest and recreation.

#### TOWN OFFICERS

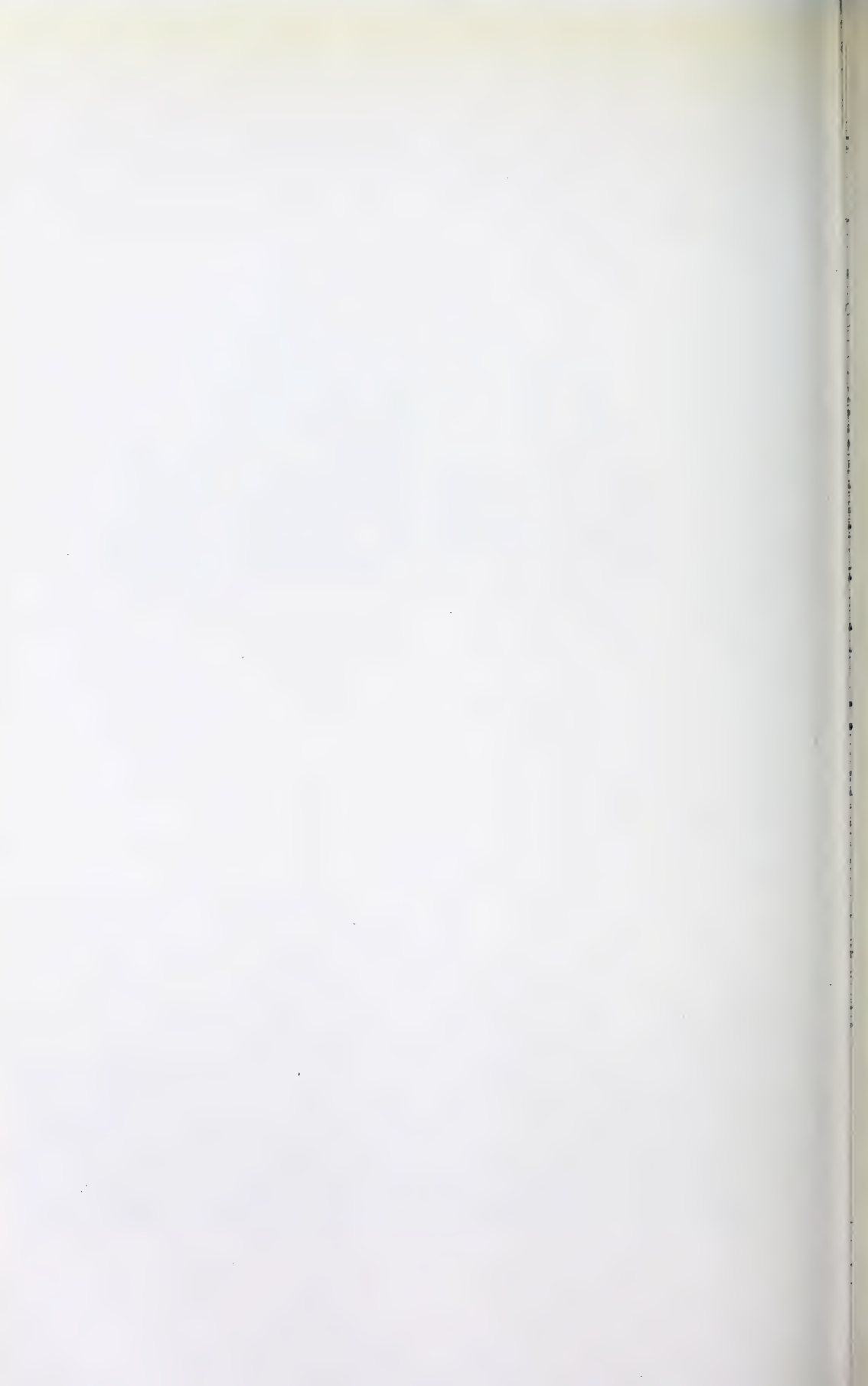
At the beginning of the year 1917 the principal town offices were filled as follows: Edward W. Hunt, Bradford Hawes, George L. Newton, Henry E. Hanley and Ralph P. Burrell, selectmen and overseers of the poor; Lewis W. Callahan, Charles H. Clapp, John F. Dwyer, Frank H. Torrey and Leavitt W. Bates, assessors; John A. Raymond, clerk; John H. Stetson, treasurer; Charles B. Cushing, accountant; Winslow M. Tirrell, collector of taxes; Frank N. Blanchard, William H. Pratt and Winfield S. Wells, auditors; Irving E. Johnson, superintendent of streets; George W. Perry, George E. Bicknell, Frank H. Torrey, Edward W. Hunt and John H. Stetson, water commissioners; Walter W. Pratt, chief of the fire department; Arthur H. Pratt, chief of police; Louis A. Cook, J. Herbert Walsh and Nathan Q. Cushing, park commissioners; Arthur H. Alden, Prince H. Tirrell, Elmer E. Leonard, Frederick D. Nichols, Theron L. Tirrell and Sarah S. Howe, school committee; Dr. George E. Emerson, Dr. Fred L. Doucett and John S. Williams, board of health; W. F. Hall, George B. Bayley, Elbert Ford, Arthur H. Pratt, Charles W. Baker, Edward F. Butler, George W. Nash, Thomas Fitzgerald, Charles W. Barrows and George W. Conant, constables.



HOUSE ROCK, EAST WEYMOUTH. LARGEST BOULDER IN  
NEW ENGLAND



STRONG'S SHOE FACTORY, EAST WEYMOUTH



## CHAPTER XXXVI

### THE TOWN OF WRENTHAM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—HISTORICAL—THE PLANTATION OF WOLLOMONOPOAG—INCORPORATION OF WRENTHAM—ORGANIZING THE TOWN—WRENTHAM VACATED—PERMANENT SETTLEMENT—SOME FIRST THINGS—THE TOWN DIVIDED—WATERWORKS—FIRE DEPARTMENT—TOWN HALL—SOLDIERS' MONUMENT—MODERN WRENTHAM—TOWN OFFICERS, 1917.

The Town of Wrentham is situated in the southwestern part of Norfolk County. On the north it is bounded by Franklin and Norfolk; on the east by Foxboro; on the south by Plainville and the State of Rhode Island; and on the west by the towns of Franklin and Bellingham. The surface is diversified. Lake Archer and Lake Pearl in the central part are two beautiful little bodies of water, frequented by large numbers of pleasure seekers, and Marsh Pond is on the line between Wrentham and Norfolk. There are a few small streams in the town, but no large ones.

#### HISTORICAL

Wrentham was included in the grant of 1636 to the Dedham proprietors, which grant embraced "all the land on the southerly and easterly side of the Charles River not formerly granted to any town or particular persons." About 1647 John Dwight and Francis Chickering gave notice of indications of a mine near certain ponds, about thirteen miles from the settlement at Dedham. It is believed that the ponds referred to were within the limits of the present Town of Wrentham. This report of Dwight and Chickering is probably the first mention of this part of Norfolk County. Two years later, owing to a scarcity of grass in Dedham, the inhabitants of that settlement went to the meadows called by the Indians "Wollomonopoag" to obtain a supply of hay for their cattle. Wollomonopoag was the Indian name for what is now Wrentham.

The oldest record relating to a settlement in this part of Norfolk County is dated at Dedham, June 22, 1660, to wit: "At a meeting of the Select men there Lieut. Fisher, Sergt. Fuller, Richard Wheeler, Ensign Fisher, are Deputed to view the lands both Upland and Meddow near about the Ponds by George Indian's Wigwam & Make report of what they find to the Select men in the first Opportunity they can take."

This order of the selectmen and the appointment of the committee was in accordance with a desire expressed by the inhabitants "formerly in a Lecture day." The following December the selectmen reported that they had sent men to view the place, and that upon the report of the men thus deputed, which was

encouraging, two men had been deputed by the selectmen "to endeavor to compound with such Indians as have a true Right there." The selectmen further expressed themselves in favor of establishing a plantation there, and recommended the appointment of a committee "to Explore the place further & to Consider what measures are proper in the Premises & propose them to the Town in some Publick Meeting to be Considered & Resolved as the Case may require."

On March 27, 1661, at a general town meeting, the question was brought up as to whether there should be a plantation established at Wollomonopoag and a majority voted in the affirmative. The meeting also voted that the Indian title to the lands at the place intended for the new plantation should be extinguished by purchase, and a committee was appointed "to Settle and Determine such things as shall be mentioned needfull for ye Plantation before named. First they shall Determine when men Present them selves for Entertainment there who are meet to be Accepted Second they shall proportion to each man his part of ye Six Hundred acres Third they shall Order the settling of ye Plantation in reference to Situation High wayes convenient Place for a Meeting House a lot or lotts for Church Officers with such other things Necessary as may hereafter be Proposed."

Later in the year the boundaries of the plantation were established at a general town meeting as follows: "It is ordered that ye bounds of the Plantation at Wollomonopoag shall be upon Stop River towards the East Beginning at Medfield bounds and so all along as the river lies up Stream until it comes about half a mile above the Falls in that river near about where ye Path to that Place at present lies & from thence Southward to Dorchester Line & the West Bounds shall be at or about the end of five miles from one of the Ponds in Wollomonopoage to be a line running Paralel with the line of at ye east end of ye Plantation Always provided that it Extend not to any lands but such as are at present our owne. And the South Bounds shall be Dorchester Line & ye North Bounds shall be Medfield bounds in Part and Charles River in Part."

Richard Ellis and Timothy Dwight were appointed agents to negotiate a purchase of the land from the Indians and in 1662 they reported that they made a treaty with Philip, sagamore of the Wampanoag tribe, for a tract of land six miles square at Wollomonopoag, for which they had obtained a deed. (See chapter on Indian History for a further account of this transaction.)

#### THE PLANTATION OF WOLLOMONOPOAG

Pursuant to the action taken at the meeting of March 27, 1661, Anthony Fisher, Isaac Bullard, Robert Ware and Richard Ellis were appointed a committee to settle and determine "such things as shall be mentioned needful for ye Plantation," etc. At a meeting on January 12, 1662, they reported that ten men had been selected, or accepted, by them to go to Wollomonopoag, but that this number was not sufficient to "goe on with ye Plantation." The Town of Dedham evidently did not offer the expected encouragement to "goe on," and the first attempt at settlement failed. On March 2, 1663, the proprietors resolved by a unanimous vote that they "could not advise parties to proceed to make it a Plantation all things considered as they are now Circumstanced."

Three weeks later another meeting of the proprietors was held, at which it was agreed that those who had already made improvements there "might take the lotts they had subdued and Improved and not draw lotts with the rest of ye proprietors." The persons who were thus allowed to choose were Anthony Fisher, Jr., Job Farrington, Richard Ellis, Robert Ware, Joshua Kent, Samuel Parker, James Thorpe, Samuel Fisher and Isaac Bullard. These men were the first to break land and begin a settlement within the limits of the six hundred acres allotted for the Wollomonopoag plantation, and were therefore the first settlers in Wrentham. Among those who drew lots on March 23, 1663, were James Draper, Nathaniel Whiting and Ralph Freeman. Later in the year the selectmen of Dedham confirmed a highway from that town to the Wollomonopoag plantation, "at the request of ye persons who have drawn lotts there, ye highway to be at ye east end of sayed lotts."

The settlement was not a success. Says Samuel Warner: "Although an attempt to settle a colony at Wollomonopoag had failed in 1663, yet the idea was not absolutely abandoned. Proof of this is seen in the transactions had in the interim between that date and 1669. We instance the drawing of lots, the laying out of a highway, surveying of the meadows, the settling of lines of lots, the purchasing of proprietors' rights, and the second treaty with King Philip."

The second treaty with King Philip was concluded in the fall of 1669, and in December of that year the proprietors of Wollomonopoag, now independent of the Dedham proprietors, met at the house of Joshua Fisher (in Dedham) "to adopt some Rules as to the ordering & due management of ye said place for the furthering and settling a Plantation there." This was their first meeting, distinct from the proprietors of Dedham. Among the rules they adopted were the following:

"1st—All rates &c for defraying public charges hereunder written Shall be and remayne in full Force to all ends intents & Purposes to all Proprietors there untill the intended Plantation become a Town.

"2d—Every Proprietor shall annually pay towards the Maintenance of a Minister there 1s 6d for each cow comon right besides what he shall be Assessed upon improved land.

"3d—That the Libertie to call or invite a Minister to exercise to the People there is left to the Inhabitants there & Such of ye principal Proprietors as may be advised without Difficulty provided it be by ye Allowance & Consent of ye Rev. Mr. Allin of Dedham & ye Ruling Elder of ye Church there & Elea Lusher.

"4th—That a Convenient meeting house shall be built to which end 2s per cow common shall be paid whereof Mr Theo Deane Capt Willm Hudson & Mr Job Viale promise to pay accordingly in money which is accepted John Thurston, Robert Ware & Sergt Fuller are appointed a Committee for ye ordering ye building & Finishing that Meeting house in convenient time."

The meeting house was not finished for several years, but on December 27, 1669, Rev. Samuel Man was invited to become the minister at the plantation. The letter of invitation was signed by thirty-nine persons.

#### INCORPORATION OF WRENTHAM

In October, 1673, the inhabitants, now grown to a considerable number, prepared the following petition, which was in due time presented to the General Court:

"The petition of ye Inhabitants of Wollomonopoage humbly sheweth that whereas it hath pleased God by His especial Providence to sett the place of habitation of divers of us in a place within the bounds of Dedham where some of us have lived Severall years conflicting with ye Difficultyes of a Wilderness state & being a long time without any to Dispense the word of God to us although at last it hath pleased God to send the Gospel amongst us dispensed by that faithful servant of his, Mr Samuel Man; but not having power to assess or gather what have been engaged by reason divers live not Within the limits of the Town & the Constables of Dedham are not willing to gather what has been engaged neyther is that Engaged by Town power so the pay is not attained but that work is like to fail & We perish for lack of Knoledge unless it please God to move your hearts who are the Fathers of the country to take care for us & not for us only but for the Interest of God here now being helpless and hopeless doe yet venture to spread our complaint before your Honours desiring you would put forth your power to Promote the ordinances of God here.

"That which we desire & humbly present to your pious consideration is that there may be a Committee appoynted & Impowered by this Hon Court to settle some way for the maintenance of the Ministrie which we doubt not but most of ye proprietors in Dedham & Elsewhere will readily grant yet some there are that have rights here seem only to be willing that we should labor under the Straights of a new Plantation so as to bring their land to a great Price which no other can regulate (that we understand) but yourselves. Therefore we fly to your wisdom & justice for help which no other under God can do The proprietors also having engaged but for so long as we remain under the power of Dedham & Dedham now advising us to be of our selves Declaring that they cannot act for us as is Necessary in divers cases they living so remote & if it shall please God so far to move you to help us in this distressed State we humbly further crave to be excused from paying any County rates for 7 or 8 years we being very Few and poor & far into the country & not considerable to the County which will oblige us to serve your Honours. We have herewith sent the Coppies of what the Proprietors did engage (which have caused us your Petitioners to Venture upon these Difficultyes expecting more would have come to us) which we desire may be ratified till they send Inhabitants suitable or what other way God may direct your wisdom to Determine which shall ever Oblige your poor supplyants to pray &c."

The selectmen of Dedham offered no objection to the plantation being incorporated as a separate town, but ventured the suggestion that "if the Court see meet to grant them town power that it may be called Wrentham." Upon the 15th day of October, 1673, the act incorporating the Town of Wrentham became a law. The name is taken from Wrentham in England, a small parish in the County of Suffolk, from which came John Thurston, Thomas Paine and a number of people who accompanied Rev. Mr. Phillips (or Philip) when he came to Dedham in 1638. He afterward returned to England and resumed his pastoral duties in his old parish.

#### ORGANIZING THE TOWN

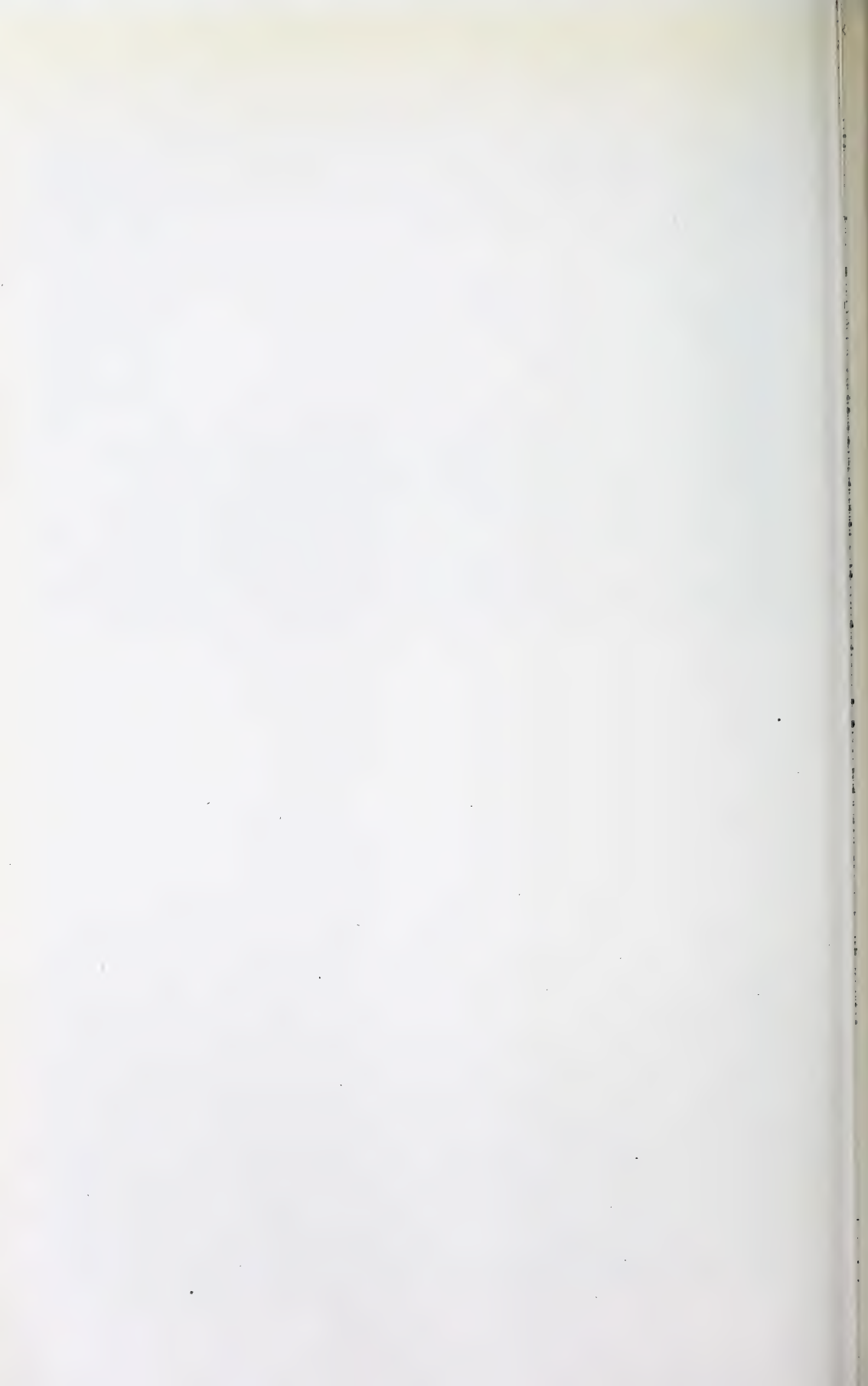
John Thurston, Daniel Fisher, William Park and Hopeskill Foster were appointed a committee by the General Court "for ordering the affairs of the Town



HELEN KELLER'S RESIDENCE, WRENTHAM



VIEW OF THE SQUARE, WRENTHAM



called Wrentham." This committee met for the first time on December 4, 1673, and adopted the following regulations:

"1st. Thomas Thurston to have ye Town Book and make record of such orders as have passed respecting such Plantation &c.

"2d. Property holders there shall pay 1s 6d for every cow common for support of ye Minister according to a previous vote.

"3d. £50 to be Assessed upon ye proprietors towards building him a House according to an act past by them ye 31 June '72.

"4th. All former committees to continue the work committed to them Heretofore as to laying out high wayes &c.

"5th. That the order in Dedham Town Book referring to ye admitting of Inhabitants made June 1 '66 be transcribed in this Town Book to be an order for ye Town of Wrentham as to all intents & purposes therein Contayned.

"Per order of Gen Court."

(Signed by all the committee.)

The order referred to in the last paragraph related to "ye entertainment of persons privately," and provided "That no inhabitant of ye Towne or tenant of any house lands &c shall after due Publication hereof grant sell alienate lease assigne sett or to farme lett any house lands or parcels of land whatsoever within sayed Towne to any persons not formerly dwelling within our Towne nor shall hire any out of ye town person for a servant by the years or any apprentice for more than two months without leave of ye committee or select men without Securitie for ye Towne's indemnitie as sayed Committee or Select men shall accept. Notice shall be given of all such Contracts made or intended to be made to some one of ye Committee or Select men & if not forbidden within a month then the partie may proceed therein but if being forbidden he shall notwithstanding proceed to contract or entertain contrary to this Order or shall fail to give notice as above provided he shall for every month so continueing forfeit to the use of ye Towne twenty shillings to be levied upon his good by ye Constable by warrant from the Com'ttee or Select men or be recoverable by action at Law."

Such an order seems peculiar in these days, but the early settlers of Massachusetts were careful to protect themselves from the presence of undesirable citizens or sojourners, and regulations of this nature were adopted by practically every town in the colony.

#### WRENTHAM VACATED

King Philip inaugurated his war upon the white settlements by his attack upon Swanzy in June, 1675. At that time the inhabitants of Wrentham were few in number and occupied a somewhat isolated position. Furthermore their settlement lay directly in the trail from Mount Hope, where Philip had his headquarters, to Medfield and was in constant danger. In an old record of the town is found the following entry: "March ye 30, 1676, ye Inhabitants ware drawn of by rason of ye Endian worre." After they were gone the savages came into the town and burned all the deserted dwellings but two, which, according to tradition, they spared because they believed them to be infected with the smallpox.

## PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

In January, 1677, a meeting of the proprietors and those who were formerly inhabitants of Wrentham was held and the latter were asked if "they would go on to rebuild and inhabitt Wrentham." To this they replied with the following written obligation:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed haveing formerly had our residence in Wrentham but by those sad and sollame dispensations of Gods Providence were removed yet desire a worke for the honour of God & the good and Comfort of our selves & ours might be again ingaged in and promotted att that Place. Therefore our purpose is to returne thither God willing But knowing our owne inability for so Great & Waytie a worke both in respectt of our insufficiency for the carrying on of new Plantation worke & the dainger that may yet be renewed upon us by ye heathins breaking out on us we thinke it not saffe for us to returne alone except other of ye proprietors joyne to go up along with us or sende Inhabitants to ingage in that worke with us. Subscribed by Elizear Metcalf Saml Fisher Daniell Haws William Macknah Daniel Wight Elizear Gay Samuell Man Cornelius Fisher Joseph Kingsbury Robert Ware John Aldis John Payne Benjn Rocket Nath Ware John Ware Michell Wilson Samuel Sheeres."

The proprietors gave a favorable answer to this appeal for a larger number of inhabitants and agreed to sell their interests to actual settlers in good faith. The subscribers to the above document then returned to their homes, rebuilt their houses, and in a short time were "joyned by a goodly number." Wrentham was now permanently settled.

## SOME FIRST THINGS

The first white child born in the town was Mehitable, daughter of Samuel and Mary Sheers, who was born on February 1, 1668.

The first mill was authorized by the town in January, 1672, when it was ordered that a grant for "a corn mille be made upon that stream that comes out of ye ponde & runns into Charles River in the neerest convenient place to ye lower end of ye ponde in Wollomonopoage & made fitte for work & doe grinde corn as such a mille ought to doe before the first daye of Maye which shall be Anno 1673. & be soe kept & attended that ye Inhabitants there be supplied with good meale from time to time of the corn they shall bring to mille."

A committee entered into a contract with Robert Crossman to build the mill, but before he had completed it King Philip's war came on, so that the work was delayed. In 1680 it was voted that if he did not speedily put his mill in repair the inhabitants "will see out for the procuring of another mill." In 1685 the grant formerly made to Crossman was conferred upon John Whiting.

The first meeting house was ordered in March, 1681, but it was not completed for more than ten years after that date.

The first school was taught the winter of 1701. The records show that "considering the scarceness of money &c it is proposed that for this winter time ye Select men & such others as will joyne in yt worke with them doe by them selves or som others in their behalfe take their turns by ye week to keepe a school to teach children & youth to read English & wright & cypher gratis & in hope that

som of Our neighbors will joyn with us in yt worke we Intend God willing to begin next Monday." This record is dated December 19, 1701, and it is to be hoped that those who "joynd" in the work were better spellers than the clerk who made the above entry.

The first school house "twenty foot long and sixteen foot broad," was built in 1702.

The first bank was started in 1832 by Philo Sanford, Robert Blake and others.

#### THE TOWN DIVIDED

When Wrentham was incorporated on October 15, 1673, it embraced all the present town of that name, the towns of Franklin and Plainville, and the greater portions of Foxboro and Norfolk. Franklin was cut off on March 2, 1778; Foxboro, on the 10th of June the same year; Norfolk, February 23, 1870; and Plainville, April 4, 1905, thus reducing Wrentham to its present dimensions.

#### WATERWORKS

On February 16, 1904, the governor of Massachusetts approved an act of the Legislature authorizing the Town of Wrentham to provide a supply of water for the inhabitants by driven, artesian or other wells, or to "take by purchase or otherwise and hold the water of any pond, stream or spring, or artesian or driven well within the limits of said town," etc., and to borrow not exceeding \$125,000, to be repaid in annual payments, beginning five years after the first issue of bonds, notes or scrip, the act to become effective when accepted by a vote of two-thirds of the legal voters at a meeting called for that purpose within three years, not more than two such meetings to be called in any one year.

The three years expired before the terms of the act had been accepted by the required vote, and on April 13, 1907, an act was passed extending the time for such acceptance to February 16, 1908. Not long after the passage of this act a meeting was called and the necessary two-thirds vote was obtained. A loan was effected and work was commenced upon the plant. The board of water commissioners made their first annual report in 1908.

According to the report of the commissioners in 1916, there were then a little over eleven miles of mains in use; total number of connections, 315; number of gallons of water pumped during the year, 38,486,250; receipts for the year, \$5,991.32; operating expenses, \$2,185.78; bonds outstanding on January 1, 1917, \$50,700. Extensions and new connections have been made every year since the works were established, and with receipts more than double the operating expenses it is evident that Wrentham will soon own its water plant unencumbered by debt and its benefits will be extended to all parts of the town. The board of commissioners at the beginning of the year 1917 was composed of Edward P. Bennett, Murray Winter and Dr. J. F. Jenckes.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the close of the year 1916 the board of fire engineers was made up of Robert A. Wood, George P. Francis, Murray Winter and George H. E. Mayshaw.

The last named was also forest fire warden. In their annual report for the year they say: "The present equipment consists of one auto truck, one hose wagon, one combination chemical wagon, one hose reel, one hand tub, 1,800 feet of hose and one combination chemical wagon at Sheldonville."

The Pioneer Engine Company, located at Wrentham Village, numbers twenty-five men, and the company at Sheldonville, in the western part of the town, ten men. The cost of the department for the year was \$1,422.76.

#### TOWN HALL

Samuel Warner, writing of Wrentham in 1883, says: "Some years since the town erected a large and convenient building in Wrentham Village for the accommodation of the high school and a grammar and primary school. It was also provided with a spacious and convenient hall for the transaction of its public business, and the town bade adieu to the vestry of the meeting house in which, and its predecessors, it had held its town meetings for more than one hundred and fifty years."

This building stands in a convenient location, facing the town common, and is well adapted to the wants of the town. It was completed about 1874 and is still in good condition.

#### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT

On the common, diagonally across the street from the town hall, stands a granite monument surmounted by the figure of an infantry soldier "at rest." On the front of the pedestal is the inscription: "In memory of the brave men of the army and navy who answered their country's call," and on the die below the dates "1861-1865." On the reverse side of the pedestal is the simple statement: "Erected by the Monument Association, 1915."

The erection of the monument is due to the efforts of an association of Wrentham women, of which Mrs. Maria MacCorrison was president; Mrs. Cora Pratt, vice president; Mrs. Gertrude B. Bean, secretary; Mrs. Catherine Morse, treasurer. Through the efforts of these patriotic women and their associates, the funds were raised to pay for the monument, which was dedicated on May 22, 1915. Charles Moore, commander of George H. Maintien Post No. 133, Grand Army of the Republic, presided at the dedication; music was furnished by the Norwood Band; the dedicatory address was delivered by Gen. Alfred S. Roe; and the monument was unveiled by Misses Edith Hittenger and Dorothy M. Pierce. George P. Willard, chairman of the board of selectmen, accepted the monument on behalf of the town in a few well chosen remarks. Addresses were also delivered by Gen. Elisha N. Rhodes, past senior vice commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Charles E. Reed, commander of the Sons of Veterans. Mrs. MacCorrison, president of the Monument Association, presented the monument to the town.

#### MODERN WRENTHAM

Two hundred and forty years have passed since the first inhabitants of the Town of Wrentham were forced to give up their homes to the torch of the

savage. Several volumes would be necessary to trace all the events that have happened in connection with the town history during these two hundred and forty years. Suffice it to say that the people of Wrentham no longer live in fear of the scalping-knife and tomahawk of the painted Indian. The war-whoop has given way to the hum of civilized industry; the Indian trail has broadened into the improved highway; the scream of the factory or locomotive whistle tells the story of progress and development. Wrentham has a national bank, a number of manufacturing establishments, the streets are lighted by electricity, mercantile houses carry stocks of all lines of goods likely to be demanded by the citizens, Catholic, Baptist, Congregational, Universalist and Episcopal churches afford ample opportunities for the worship of God, and four public school buildings bear witness to the fact that the people believe in educating their children. In 1910 the population numbered 1,743, and in 1915 it had increased to 2,414, a gain of 671 in five years. According to the report of the board of assessors, the valuation of property in 1916 was \$1,651,333.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1917

Following is a list of the principal town officials at the beginning of the year 1917: George P. Willard, Harrison V. Hall and George S. Sheldon, selectmen and overseers of the poor; David T. Stone, clerk; James E. Carpenter, treasurer; Wesley G. Dibble, tax collector; Willard H. Bennett, George S. Sheldon and Albertus J. Whiting, assessors; Charles L. Eldridge and William A. Morse, highway surveyors; Ernest A. Hall, Edwin F. Wood and Oliver J. Goodspeed, school committee; Clarence A. Raymond, auditor; Fred L. Blatchford, Daniel S. Farrington and Hiram A. Cowell, park commissioners; Edgar I. Blake, William A. Morse, George H. E. Mayshaw, Frank E. Snow and Joseph P. Quirk, constables.

## CHAPTER XXXVII

### THE REVOLUTION

NORFOLK COUNTY NOT IN EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF THE WAR—EARLY CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIES—LOYALTY OF THE COLONISTS—THE STAMP ACT—THE PILLAR OF LIBERTY—THE BOSTON TEA PARTY—THE BOSTON PORT BILL—THE SUFFOLK RESOLVES—WORK OF THE TOWNS—BELLINGHAM—BRAINTREE—BROOKLINE — COHASSET — DEDHAM — MEDFIELD — MEDWAY — MILTON — NEEDHAM—STOUGHTON—WALPOLE—WEYMOUTH—WRENTHAM.

Norfolk County, as such, did not come into existence until nearly ten years after the close of the Revolution. At the beginning of that war, the territory now comprising the county was all included in the County of Suffolk. The organized towns then within the limits of that territory, and which were afterward taken to form Norfolk County, were as follows: Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Cohasset, Dedham, Dorchester, Medfield, Medway, Milton, Needham, Roxbury, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth and Wrentham. In 1778, while the war was in progress, the towns of Franklin and Foxboro were incorporated, and Sharon was established in February, 1783, a little more than six months before the final treaty of peace.

#### EARLY CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIES

In the very beginning of English settlement in America, it was the radical element that came across the sea to escape the persecutions of the conservatives—that is, of those who were satisfied with conditions in the mother country. Once here, these radicals sought charters which would give them control of their local affairs. The British Government, "to keep them quiet," granted such charters to several of the colonies. This was a mistake if the government expected or intended to retain permanent control over the colonists. In establishing their local governments, the town meeting became a prominent feature. In these town meetings, all voters stood upon a perfect equality, each one being at liberty to speak his sentiments fully and freely upon any question affecting the town's welfare. Here the measures of local government came up for consideration and by the expressed will of the majority were enacted into laws. Here were chosen the representatives to the General Court, who received from their constituents detailed instructions as to the course to be pursued and were held to a strict accountability. The members of the General Court were themselves of the same class of men who so boldly and unhesitatingly expressed their opinions in the town meeting. They knew the temper of their constituents, with whom they must associate, while the royal government was far away across the

Atlantic. They realized, too, that any evasion, any shirking of responsibility, would bring them into disfavor with their neighbors. As a rule, however, the representatives in the General Court were actuated by the same spirit as their fellow townsmen who elected them, and were governed by that spirit in the discharge of their official duties.

Thomas Jefferson, writing to Samuel Kercheval under date of July 12, 1816, took occasion to express his opinion of the town meeting as follows: "Those wards, called townships in New England, are the vital principle of their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self government and for its preservation."

And a more recent writer, James Bryce, in his *American Commonwealth*, says: "Of the three or four types or systems of local government which I have described, that of the town or township with its popular primary assembly is admittedly the best. It is the cheapest and the most efficient; it is the most educative to the citizens who bear a part in it. The town meeting has been not only the source, but the school of democracy."

What wonder, then, that under a system of local government of this nature, where free speech was a fundamental, and where "every vote counted one," a spirit of independence should develop that would resist oppression to the last?

#### LOYALTY OF THE COLONISTS

Notwithstanding the liberality of their charters, the English colonists in America remained loyal to the crown for more than a century and a half before they openly rebelled against the policies of the home government. Even when Sir Edmund Andros arrived in December, 1686, with a commission from King James for the government of the New England colonies (except Connecticut) and began to overturn the established order of things, the people remained loyal, though they entered a vigorous protest against the proceedings of the new governor. Previous to his coming the governor seldom interfered with the management of local matters; now, everything was made subject to the will of the executive, who possessed a power under his commission that was almost absolute. Town meetings except for the election of town officers were abolished. The vote by ballot was rejected. None could leave the country without a special permit. Heavy taxes were levied, which the people generally refused to pay. Writs of habeas corpus were withheld and the laws of England denied to the citizens of the colonies. Oaths were administered upon the Bible, which caused a serious objection on the part of the Puritans. Personal liberty and established customs were disregarded. Indian deeds to the land were pronounced worthless, and old grants must be renewed at high rate of fees; grants made under the charter being declared void by its forfeiture. All commons and lands reserved for the common people were given to favorites. Finally a petition to the king was prepared and Increase Mather was on his way to England with it, when the rebellion of 1688 broke the power of James and with his power went that of his rulers in the colonies.

The tyrannical methods of Governor Andros marked the beginning of a series of important events that had a significant bearing upon the political fortunes of New England. But after his administration came to its untimely end, the people

returned to their allegiance. In April, 1690, at the time of King William's war, the expedition of Sir William Phipps against Port Royal was fitted out in Massachusetts. Later in the same year an expedition was planned against Quebec, in which Sir William Phipps was to command the fleet and Governor Winthrop lead the land forces, but it failed owing to the lateness of the season. In Queen Anne's war (1702-1713), in King George's war (1744-1748), and in the French and Indian war (1756-1763), the colonists fought on the side of England. Says Barber: "The final reduction of Canada in 1760 caused great and universal rejoicing in the colonies and public thanksgivings were appointed."

#### THE STAMP ACT

George III began his reign on October 25, 1760. He has been described as "narrow-minded, self-willed, jealous of his royal prerogatives, envious of others' greatness and resentful of all difference from his wishes on any public measure as a personal offense to the King."

After the close of the French and Indian war, the British Parliament, urged on by the new king, formed a plan for raising a revenue by taxing the colonies. The first act of this nature was passed and received the royal assent on March 22, 1765. It was known as the "Stamp Act," for the reason that it laid a duty upon all paper, vellum or parchment used in America, and provided that all deeds, contracts, etc., written upon unstamped paper should be null and void. Immediately the storm broke. The Virginia Assembly, then in session, declared its opposition in a series of spirited resolutions; the Sons of Liberty, an organization to resist the act, sprang into existence; in Boston some of the houses of those who upheld the measure were demolished by an indignant populace; merchants banded themselves together in a pledge to import no more goods from England until the obnoxious law was repealed, and in various other ways the opposition to the act was made manifest.

It remained for Massachusetts to crystallize the general discontent into something like coherent form. That colony sent out a call to the other colonists to send delegates to a convention in New York in October, to determine upon a policy to be followed by all the English colonies affected by the Stamp Act. At the appointed time delegates from nine colonies met and declared in language that could not be misconstrued that the Stamp Act was an infringement upon the rights of freemen. The convention adopted a "declaration of rights and grievances," prepared a petition to the king and a memorial to each house of Parliament asking for the immediate repeal of the act. Through the influence of William Pitt and other friends of the colonists, the act was repealed on March 18, 1766, four days less than one year from the time of its enactment.

#### THE PILLAR OF LIBERTY

On the corner of the Green, at the junction of Court and High streets in the Town of Dedham, is a square block of granite about four feet in height, which was once the pedestal of the "Pillar of Liberty," the history of which is told by the inscriptions it bears. On the east side of the stone, next to Court street, is a bronze tablet bearing the legend: "This stone was first placed near this

spot July 22, 1766. It supported a wooden column surmounted by a bust of William Pitt. Both column and bust disappeared about the close of the last century. The stone was removed from the opposite corner in 1886."

The opposite corner referred to was the corner of the courthouse lot, where the stone was placed in 1828 by the citizens of the town, being then taken from the corner of the Common, near the place where it stands today. Facing High street is the following inscription carved in the stone, some of the letters blurred by time: "The Pillar of Liberty to the honor of William Pitt, Esqr., and others, Patriots, who saved America from impending slavery and confirmed our most loyal affection to King George III by procuring a repeal of the Stamp Act, 18th March, 1766.

"Erected here July 22, 1766, by Dr. Nathaniel Ames (2nd) Col. Ebenezer Battle, Major Abijah Draper and other patriots friendly to the rights of the Colonies at that day.

"Replaced by the Citizens, July 4, 1828."

On the west side of the stone is the inscription: "The Pillar of Liberty erected by the Sons of Liberty in this vicinity. *Laus Deo Regii et Immunitat m autoribusq maxime Patronus Pitt qui Rempub. rursum evulsit faucibus Orei.*"

The men who erected this monument in the first place, like the wooden column and bust of Pitt, have long since passed from the stage of action. But for more than a century and a half the old stone has stood as an eloquent testimony of the lofty sentiments that animated the patriots of 1766 in so boldly resisting the first attempt at oppression on the part of the British crown.

#### THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

As a means of raising revenue, the Stamp Act was a failure, hardly enough being realized to cover the expenses of the attempts at its enforcement. In repealing it the British ministry still insisted upon the right to tax the colonies, and in 1767 the Parliament passed an act laying duties upon glass, painters' colors, paper and tea. The duties were purposely made light, in the hope that the colonists would pay them without protest, but the Stamp Act had concentrated opposition to the principle of "taxation without representation," and no duty, however small, was likely to be paid willingly.

Again the merchants of Massachusetts entered into a compact to import no goods upon which duties were charged. A circular letter was sent to the other colonies, urging similar action, and in nearly every instance it met with friendly support. Colonial assemblies joined in the opposition and sent petitions and remonstrances to the king and to Parliament, which resulted in all the duties being abolished except the tax of three pence a pound on tea. In many of the towns the citizens pledged themselves to use no imported tea until the hated tax was removed. Thus matters stood until December, 1773. Early in that month three vessels laden with tea arrived at Boston. The commanders of these ships were summoned before the citizens' committee, composed of Samuel Adams, Jonathan Williams, John Rowe, William Phillips, John Hancock and John Pitts, and warned not to land any of the tea, but to take their vessels to Griffin's wharf and there await further orders. On the afternoon of the 16th a meeting was held in Faneuil Hall, attended by about two thousand men from all parts of the

country about Boston, to determine what course should be pursued relative to sending the tea back to England. A few minutes before six o'clock the captain of one of the vessels appeared in the hall and announced that the governor would not grant a permit for him to take his ship back to England until it was regularly cleared. What followed this announcement is thus told in Snow's History of Boston:

"A violent commotion immediately ensued. A person who was in the gallery, disguised after the manner of the Indians, shouted at this juncture the cry of war; it was answered by about thirty persons, disguised in like manner, at the door. The meeting was dissolved in the twinkling of an eye. The multitude rushed to Griffin's wharf. The disguised Indians went on board the ships laden with the tea. In less than two hours 240 chests and 100 half chests were staved and emptied in to the dock. The affair was conducted without any tumult; no damage was done to the vessels or to any other effects whatever. This was executed in the presence of several ships of war lying in the harbor, and almost under the guns of the castle, where there was a large body of troops at the command of the commissioners. We are left to conjecture for the reasons why no opposition was made to this bold adventure. The names of the men who dared to engage in it have never been made public."

This affair has become known in history as the "Boston Tea Party." Although, as Snow says, the names of the disguised patriots were never made public, it is known that James Stoddard of Cohasset, a son of Gen. Joseph Palmer of Braintree, and probably others from what is now Norfolk County were among those who emptied the tea into the harbor. "They had the honor of a part in the act which brought the king and Parliament to a decision that America must be subdued by force of arms," and four regiments of British soldiers were ordered to Boston.

#### THE BOSTON PORT BILL

To punish the citizens of Boston for their temerity in destroying the tea, or for their failure to prevent its destruction, Parliament in March, 1774, passed the act known as the "Boston Port Bill," which prohibited all maritime intercourse with that town and removed the custom house and all the public offices to Salem. While the act had the effect of preventing vessels from foreign ports from entering the harbor, it could not keep the small schooners, shallops, fishing smacks, etc., from coming in, and these were kept busy bringing supplies from all the coast towns of New England, the people of which cheerfully sent large donations to the Boston people.

Three other obnoxious measures were passed about this time: 1. The "Massachusetts Bill," which changed the charter of the colony, taking the government from the people and giving it to the king's agents; 2. The "Transportation Bill," which provided that any citizen of the colonies who might commit murder in resisting the laws should be sent to England for trial; 3. The "Quebec Act," annexing all the territory north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers to Canada. The effect of these acts was to cement the people of the colonies more closely together in their determination to resist the encroachments of the crown.

The slogan "No taxation without representation," was now changed to "No legislation without representation."

## THE SUFFOLK RESOLVES

On May 13, 1774, Thomas Gage arrived in Boston, accompanied by more troops and armed with a commission as Captain-General and Governor, to enforce the laws above mentioned. Events now moved rapidly. Not long after General Gage's arrival, invitations were secretly sent to all the towns in Suffolk County to choose delegates to a meeting to consider the state of the colonies and decide upon some concerted plan of action. The first meeting of these delegates was held at Doty's Tavern, in what is now the Town of Canton, on August 16, 1774. Delegates from every town in the county were present and the meeting has become known as the "Suffolk Congress." A second meeting of the congress was held at Woodward's Tavern in Dedham, September 6, 1774, the day following the assembling of the first Continental Congress at Philadelphia. An adjournment was taken to the 9th, when the delegates again met, this time at the house of Daniel Vose, in the Town of Milton, where the famous "Suffolk Resolves" were unanimously adopted. As these resolves show the all prevailing sentiment of that day, and as they originated in what is now Norfolk County, nearly two years before the Declaration of Independence, they form an important part of the county's history and are here reproduced in full:

"Whereas, the power but not the justice, the vengeance but not the wisdom, of Great Britain, which of old persecuted, scourged and exiled our fugitive parents from their native shores, now pursues us, their guiltless children, with unrelenting severity; and whereas, this then savage and uncultivated desert was purchased by the toil and treasure, or acquired by the valor and blood of those of our venerable progenitors, who bequeathed to us the dear-bought inheritance, who consigned it to our care and protection—the most sacred obligations are upon us to transmit the glorious purchase, unfettered by power, unclogged with shackles, to our innocent and beloved offspring. On the fortitude, on the wisdom, and on the exertions of this important day is suspended the fate of this New World and of unborn millions. If a boundless extent of continent, swarming with millions, will tamely submit to live, move and have their being at the arbitrary will of a licentious minister, they basely yield to volunteer slavery, and future generations shall load their memories with incessant execrations. On the other hand, if we arrest the hand which would ransack our pockets; if we disarm the parricide who points the dagger at our bosoms; if we nobly defeat that fatal edict which proclaims a power to frame laws for us in all cases whatsoever, thereby entailing the endless and numberless curses of slavery upon us, our heirs, and their heirs forever; if we successfully resist that unconstitutional power, whereby our capital is robbed of the means of life; whereby the streets of Boston are thronged with military executioners; whereby our coasts are lined and our harbors crowded with ships of war; whereby the charter of the colony, that sacred barrier against the encroachments of tyranny, is mutilated, and in effect annihilated; whereby a murderous law is framed to shelter villains from the hand of justice; whereby that inalienable and inestimable inheritance, which we derived from nature, the constitution of Britain, which was covenanted to us in the charter of the province, is totally wrecked,

annulled and vacated—posterity will acknowledge that virtue which preserved the free and happy; and while we enjoy the rewards and blessings of the faithful, the torrent of panegyric will roll down our reputations to the latest period, where the streams of time shall be absorbed in the abyss of eternity. Therefore we have resolved, and do resolve:

“1. That whereas His Majesty King George the Third is the rightful successor to the throne of Great Britain, and justly entitled to the allegiance of the British realm, and, agreeable to compact of the English colonies in America—therefore we, the heirs and successors of the first planters of the colony, do cheerfully acknowledge the said George the Third to be our rightful sovereign, and that said covenant is the tenure and claim on which are founded our allegiance and submission.

“2. That it is an indispensable duty which we owe to God, our country, ourselves and our posterity, by all lawful ways and means in our power, to maintain, defend and preserve these civil and religious rights and liberties for which many of our fathers fought, bled and died, and to hand them down entire to future generations.

“3. That the late acts of the British Parliament for blocking up the harbor of Boston, and for altering the established form of government in this colony; and for screening the most flagitious violators of the laws of the province from a legal trial, are gross infractions of those rights to which we are justly entitled by the laws of nature, the British Constitution and the charter of the province.

“4. That no obedience is due from this province to either or any part of the acts above mentioned; but that they be rejected as the attempts of a wicked administration to enslave America.

“5. That so long as the justices of our superior courts of judicature, court of assize and general gaol delivery, and inferior courts of common pleas in this county are appointed or hold their places by any other tenure than that which the charter and the laws of the province direct, they must be considered as under undue influence and are therefore unconstitutional officers, and as such no regard ought to be paid to them by the people of this country.

“6. That if the justices of the superior court of judicature, court of assize, etc., justices of the court of common pleas, or of the general sessions of the peace, shall sit and act during their present unqualified state, this country will support and bear harmless all sheriffs and their deputies, constables, jurors and other officers who shall refuse to carry into execution the orders of said courts. And as far as is possible to prevent the inconveniences that must attend the suspension of the courts of justice, we do earnestly recommend it to all creditors to exercise all reasonable and generous forbearance to their debtors, and to all debtors to discharge their just debts with all possible speed; and if any disputes concerning debts or trespasses shall arise, which cannot be settled by the parties, we recommend it to them to submit all such cases to arbitration; and if the parties, or either of them shall refuse to do so, they ought to be considered as coöperating with the enemies of this country.

“7. That it be recommended to the collectors of taxes, constables and all other officers who have public moneys in their hands, to retain the same, and not to make any payment thereof to the province or county treasurers, until the civil

government of the province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall be otherwise ordered by the proposed Provincial Congress.

"8. That the persons who have accepted seats at the Council Board by virtue of a mandamus from the King in conformity with the last Act of the British Parliament, entitled 'An Act for the regulating the Government of the Massachusetts Bay,' have acted in direct violation of the duty they owe to the country, and have thereby given great and just offence to this people. Therefore,

"Resolved, That this county do recommend it to all persons who have [been] so highly offending by accepting said department, and have not already publicly resigned their seats in the Council Board, to make public resignation of their places at said Board on or before the twentieth day of this instant September; and that all persons neglecting so to do shall from and after that day be considered by this county as obstinate and incorrigible enemies of this colony.

"9. That the fortifications begun and now carrying on upon Boston Neck are justly alarming to this country, and give us reason to apprehend some hostile intention against that town, more especially as the commander-in-chief has in a very extraordinary manner removed the powder from the magazine at Charlestown, and has also forbidden the keeper of the magazine at Boston to deliver out to the owners the powder which they lodged in said magazine.

"10. That the late act of Parliament for establishing the Roman Catholic religion and the French laws in that extensive country now called Canada is dangerous to an extreme degree to the Protestant religion, and to the civil rights and liberties of all America; and therefore as men and Protestant Christians we are indispensably obliged to take all proper measures for our security.

"11. That whereas our enemies have flattered themselves that they shall make an easy prey of this numerous brave and hardy people from an apprehension that they are unacquainted with military discipline, we therefore, for the honor, defence and security of this country and province, advise, as it has been recommended to take away all commissions from the officers of the militia, that those who now hold commissions, or such other persons, be elected in each town as officers in the militia, as shall be judged of sufficient capacity for that purpose, and who have evidenced themselves the inflexible friends to the rights of the people; and that the inhabitants of those towns and districts who are qualified do use their utmost diligence to acquaint themselves with the arts of war as soon as possible, and do for that purpose appear under arms at least once every week.

"12. That during the present hostile appearances on the part of Great Britain, notwithstanding the many insults and impressions which we must sensibly resent, yet, nevertheless, from an affection to His Majesty, which we have at all times evidenced, we are determined to act merely upon the defensive, so long as such conduct may be vindicated by reason and the principles of self-preservation, but no longer.

"13. That as we understand it has been in contemplation to apprehend sundry persons of this country, who have rendered themselves conspicuous in contending for the violated rights and liberties of their countrymen, we do recommend, that should such an audacious measure be put into practice, to seize and keep in safe custody every servant of the present tyrannical and unconstitutional government throughout the country and province, until the persons so apprehended are lib-

erated from the hands of our adversaries and restored safe and uninjured to their respective friends and families.

"14. That until our rights are fully restored to us, we will to the utmost of our power (and recommend the same to other counties) withhold all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies, and abstain from the consumption of British merchandise and manufacture, and especially of East India teas and piece goods, with such additions, alterations and exceptions only as the Grand Congress of the colonies may agree to.

"15. That under our present circumstances it is incumbent on us to encourage arts and manufactures amongst us by all means in our power; and that Joseph Palmer, Esq., of Braintree; Mr. Ebenezer Dorr of Roxbury; Mr. James Bois and Mr. Edward Preston of Milton; and Mr. Nathaniel Guild of Walpole, be and hereby are appointed a committee to consider of the best ways and means to promote and establish the same, and report to this convention as soon as may be.

"16. That the exigencies of our public affairs demand that a Provincial Congress be called to concert such measures as may be adopted and vigorously executed by the whole people; and we do recommend it to the several towns in this county to choose members for such a Provincial Congress to be holden in Concord on the second Tuesday of October next ensuing.

"17. That this county confiding in the wisdom and integrity of the Continental Congress now sitting at Philadelphia, will pay all due respect and submission to such measures as may be recommended by them to the colonies, for the restoration and establishment of our just rights, civil and religious, and for renewing that harmony and union between Great Britain and the colonies so earnestly wished for by all good men.

"18. Whereas, the universal uneasiness which prevails among all orders of men, arising from the wicked and oppressive measures of the present administration, may influence some unthinking persons to commit outrage upon private property, we would heartily recommend to all persons of this community not to engage in any riots, routs or licentious attacks upon the properties of any person whatsoever, as being subversive of all order and government, but, by a steady, manly, uniform and persevering opposition to convince our enemies, that in a contest so important, in a cause so solemn, our conduct shall be such as shall merit the approbation of the wise and the admiration of the brave and free of every age and of every country.

"19. That should our enemies by any sudden manœuvres, render it necessary for us to ask aid and assistance of our brethren in the country, some one of the committee of correspondence, or a select man of such a town, or the town adjoining where such hostilities shall commence, shall despatch couriers with written messages to the select men or committee of correspondence of the several towns in the vicinity, with a written account of such matter, who shall despatch others to committees or select men more remote till proper and sufficient assistance be obtained; and that the expense of said couriers be defrayed by the county until it shall be otherwise ordered by the Provincial Congress.

"Voted that Joseph Warren, Esq., and Dr. Benjamin Church of Boston; Deacon Joseph Palmer and Colonel Ebenezer Thayer of Braintree; Captain Lemuel Robinson, William Holden, Esq., and Captain John Homans of Dorchester; Capt. William Heath of Roxbury; Colonel William Taylor and Dr. Samuel Gardner of

Milton; Isaac Gardner, Esq., Capt. Benjamin White and Capt. Thomas Aspinwall of Brookline; Nathaniel Sumner, Esq., and Richard Woodward of Dedham—be a committee to wait on His Excellency the Governor, to inform him that this country is alarmed at the fortifications making on Boston Neck, and to remonstrate against the same, and the repeated insults offered by the soldiery to persons passing and repassing into that town; and to confer with him upon those subjects.

“Attest: WILLIAM THOMPSON, Clerk.”

#### WORK OF THE TOWNS

At the time of the adoption of these resolves, the organized towns within the present limits of Norfolk County were Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Cohasset, Dedham, Medfield, Medway, Milton, Needham, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth and Wrentham. The action of the Suffolk Congress in adopting the resolutions encouraged the people in their determination to resist to the utmost further encroachments upon their liberties. Military companies were formed in almost every town. They were known as “Minute Men,” because the members pledged themselves to drop their peaceful occupations and take up arms “at a minute’s warning.” The time to answer the call came much sooner than many of them anticipated, but not one failed at the crucial moment.

Bellingham began her activities on September 2, 1774, when delegates were chosen to attend the meeting of the Suffolk Congress to be held at Woodward’s Tavern in Dedham on the 6th, and voted the sum of five pounds for the purchase of ammunition. On the 30th of the same month Luke Holbrook was chosen as delegate to the Provincial Congress to meet at Concord the following month. On the 19th of December the town voted to appropriate seven pounds more to the ammunition fund and elected Stephen Metcalf the congressional delegate for February. At a town meeting in January, 1775, a motion was made to appropriate a sum of money to “pay those men ready to go at a minute’s warning,” but it failed to pass. On April 25, 1775, six days after the battle of Lexington, the town voted unanimously in favor of giving a bounty of £1 5s to every member of the “town’s share of the 13,600 men to be enlisted, if Congress does not give it.” From that time forward Bellingham was represented on the firing line, no fewer than ninety-three of her sons serving in the Continental army.

Braintree was a hotbed of rebellion. There Gen. Joseph Palmer was a leader in the opposition to British oppression. At a meeting held on March 1, 1773, more than two years before the actual beginning of the war, he submitted a series of resolutions, one of which was “That all taxation, by what name soever called, imposed upon us without our consent by any earthly power, is unconstitutional, oppressive, and tend to enslave us.”

General Palmer was one of the committee named in the Suffolk Resolves to wait upon the governor and remonstrate against the fortification of Boston Neck. He, with Ebenezer Thayer and Capt. William Penniman, was appointed on the committee of correspondence in August, 1774. The North Precinct (now Quincy) was full of tories. Near the Church of England the town’s supply of powder was stored in a small house built for the purpose. When General Gage, about the 1st of September, 1774, seized the ammunition at Charlestown, the

people of Braintree grew alarmed for the safety of their powder. On Sunday evening, September 4, 1774, about two hundred men marched to the powder-house, loaded the powder into a cart and took it to the South Precinct, where it was concealed until it might be needed.

A town meeting on April 24, 1775, instructed the selectmen "to dismiss Mr. Rice their Gramer Schoolmaster as soon as their present Engagements are expired." The reason for this action was to save the money expended on the school for the purchase of ammunition and the payment of volunteers. Mr. Rice afterward became captain of a company.

On Saturday, June 17, 1775, the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, the roar of cannon from the British men-of-war, as they shelled the breastworks that had been thrown up the night before, could be distinctly heard in Quincy. Mrs. John Adams, accompanied by her son, John Quincy Adams, went to the top of Penn's Hill, hoping to ascertain what was going on in the vicinity of Boston. The great volume of black smoke that arose from burning Charlestown could be plainly seen. A cairn of stones marks the spot where the mother and child sat to watch afar the first great battle of the War for Independence.

In June, 1777, a Braintree town meeting was called "for the purpose of agreeing upon a list of those Persons dwelling in Braintree who are esteemed Inimical to the popular Cause." This was the first pronounced action against the tories of the town. The selectmen presented the names of Rev. Edward Winslow, Maj. Ebenezer Miller, Benjamin Cleverly, Joseph Cleverly, James Apthorp, John Cheesman, William Veazie, Nedabiah Bent and Oliver Gay. To this list the meeting added the names of Henry Cleverly, Joseph Cleverly (2nd), William Veazie, Jr., and Thomas Brackett. Capt. William Penniman was chosen to procure evidence of their disloyalty and lay it before the court. Mr. Winslow followed the British army to New York. The other proscribed citizens, if they still retained their tory views, were careful not to give them voice. Subsequently some property in the town, belonging to non-resident tories, was seized and sold. One piece of this confiscated property was the old Vassall house, which was bought by John Adams, and from which he was buried in 1826.

Says Charles Francis Adams: "Between the years 1775 and 1782, as nearly as can now be estimated, Braintree sent into the field about 550 men, enlisted for periods of six months or over. The number of men, as well as the length of enlistment, varied with the different years. In 1775, for instance, besides the militia to guard the coast, the town sent not less than 150 men, enlisted to the close of the year, into Washington's army about Boston. In 1776 about 120 men were furnished. In 1777 some seventy were enlisted for three years. In no year were less than forty sent, except in 1781, when the enlistment appears to have been for four months only. Under this system the same men in the course of a seven years' war may have enlisted several times. It is therefore impossible even to estimate the portion of Braintree's 650 arms-bearing men who actually served in the Continental army, though it is probably safe to say that the number did not fall below 300."

Brookline placed herself on record as early as December 15, 1767, soon after Parliament levied the tax on tea, a town meeting voted unanimously "That this Town will take all prudent and Legal Measures to promote Industry Occonimy & Manufactures in this Province & in any of the British American Colonys &

will like wise take all Legal Measures to discourage the Use of European Superfluities."

The "Superfluities" referred to were the articles subjected to taxation. William Hyslop, Benjamin White, Isaac Gardner, John Goddard and Samuel Aspinwall were chosen as a committee "to prepare a form for subscription against Receiving of those European Superfluities and make report at the Adjournment of this meeting." The report was made on the 29th and a number of the citizens signed the agreement not to use tea until the offensive tax was removed. Between 1772 and 1774 several town meetings passed resolutions and appointed committees to act with the other towns of the province in resistance to British aggression. On November 17, 1774, the "Bill of Rights" submitted by the first Continental Congress to the colonies was passed unanimously, and on May 29, 1775, Capt. Benjamin White was elected delegate to the Provincial Congress to be held at Watertown.

When the "Lexington Alarm" was sounded through the Massachusetts towns on April 19, 1775, two companies from Brookline responded. One was officered by Capt. Timothy Corey, First Lieut. Thomas Cummings, Second Lieut. Jonas Johnson, and the other by Capt. Thomas White, First Lieut. Caleb Craft, Second Lieut. Daniel White. Lieutenant Craft afterward commanded a company of militia on Dorchester Heights from July 4 to 28, 1778, the company forming part of Colonel MacIntosh's regiment. The companies commanded by Captains Pettengill, Childs and Cogswell also contained a number of Brookline men.

Cohasset was some distance from the "seat of war," but the people were just as determined in their course as those who dwelt nearer to Boston. On March 7, 1774, it was voted to build a closet in the meeting house for ammunition. On Christmas day of that year a committee of eleven was chosen as recommended by the Continental Congress. Jesse Stephenson was chairman of the committee. At the same time it was voted to pay the province tax to Henry Gardner instead of Harrison Gray, and to indemnify the selectmen and constables for so doing. On April 28, 1775, an appropriation was made to buy one hundred pounds of gunpowder and five hundred flints.

In actual military service Capt. Job Cushing's Cohasset company was attached to Colonel Revere's regiment; Captain Stowers commanded a company that was engaged in guarding the coast; Capt. Noah Nichols commanded a company of artillery, nearly all the members of which came from Cohasset; Maj. James Stoddard was one of the "Boston Tea Party," and afterward led the attacking party that captured a British brig becalmed off the Cohasset shore, laden with supplies for the British troops in Boston; Joseph Bates was in the battle of Bunker Hill and after his ammunition was exhausted was seen throwing stones at the English troops as they swarmed over the breastworks; and the name of Benjamin Lincoln has been handed down in history as one of the heroes of the Revolution.

Dedham, which then included several of the adjacent towns that have been incorporated since the Revolution, heard the news of the Lexington affair about nine o'clock on the morning of April 19, 1775. The messenger came through Needham and Dover, probably for the reason that the more direct routes were held by the enemy. Six companies of minute men were quickly assembled, to-wit: Capt. Joseph Guild's and Capt. Aaron Fuller's of the First Parish;

Capt. William Ellis', of the Third Parish; Capt. William Bullard's, from the South Parish (now Norwood); Capt. Ebenezer Battle's, from the Fourth Parish (now Dover); and a company of seventeen men commanded by Capt. George Gould, with Richard Woodward as lieutenant, went from that part of the town known as Dedham Island, and West Roxbury. After a hurried march Captain Fuller's company and Captain Battle's company met the British as they were retreating toward Boston. In the action which followed, Elias Haven was killed and Israel Everett was wounded. The former belonged to Captain Battle's company and the latter to Captain Fuller's.

During the month following, companies of soldiers from the southerly parts of the province and from Rhode Island were constantly passing through Dedham to join the Continental army about Boston. Toward the end of April some of the provincial cannon were removed to Dedham to be out of reach of the enemy. In May the town voted to raise 120 men, "to be ready to march on an alarm." Committees were appointed to procure guns and ammunition, a night watch was established, and the great gun of King Philip's war was ordered "to be swung." Ebenezer Brackett was detailed to guard the cannon.

On May 27, 1776, six weeks before the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, a Dedham town meeting declared that "if the Honourable Congress shall see fit to declare the Colonies Independent of Great Britain the Inhabitants of this town will solemnly engage to Support them in that Measure."

In July, 1776, the town voted a bounty of seven pounds to each soldier in addition to the other wages, and a committee was chosen to provide for soldiers' families needing assistance. In February, 1777, the bounty was increased to twenty-four pounds for each man who would enlist for three years or during the war. In 1778 the First Parish imposed a tax of £4,480 upon the inhabitants for military purposes, and in 1779 another assessment of £8,000 was made "towards defraying the expense of hiring soldiers." Worthington, in his History of Dedham, estimates the annual expenditures of the town during the war at about eight thousand dollars. Thus it will be seen that from start to finish Dedham bore her part, both in men and money.

Medfield's revolutionary activity began with the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765. Seth Clark, then the representative in the General Court, received instructions not to "give acquiescence, or even a willing submission to the acts of Parliament." The instructions close with the injunction to "honor the king, but save the country."

In 1774 the town adopted the agreement and articles of the Continental Congress and ordered the resolutions to be entered on the town records. During the years 1774-75 meetings were held by adjournment from week to week, a committee of correspondence of five members was chosen, one-fourth of the able-bodied men were enrolled as minute men and were paid for the time spent in drilling—three half days each week. When the news of the battle of Lexington reached Medfield, Capt. Sabin Mann and his company of twenty-seven marched to the field and were in service for twelve days. In all, eighty-two Medfield men responded to the Lexington Alarm. Captain Chenery marched for Bunker Hill when it was learned that a battle was on there. He arrived too late to be

of service on that eventful day, but he and his company served in the siege of Boston.

Medway was not behind her sister towns in giving expression to sentiments in opposition to the Stamp Act and those other acts of Parliament which followed it. Elisha Adams, the representative, received similar instructions to those sent from Medfield to Seth Clark. In January, 1775, an appropriation of thirty pounds was made "to encourage the enlisting of a number of able-bodied men to the number of one-fourth of the military soldiers to complete and hold themselves in readiness to march at shortest notice."

In this company of minute men Joshua Gould was a lieutenant. A full list of Medway's volunteers cannot be given, but she did her share, both in creating patriotic sentiment and fighting the battles of the colonies.

Milton was one of the first towns to go on record in opposition to the Stamp Act. On October 24, 1765, Dr. Samuel Gardner, Benjamin Wadsworth and Jazaniah Tucker were chosen a committee to draw up instructions to Stephen Miller, the town's representative in the General Court. The instructions are too long to be reproduced here, but they voiced in no uncertain language the town's opposition to an act that made the colonists "as distant from the liberty of Englishmen as are the slaves in Turkey." Mr. Miller was also instructed to "discountenance as far as lies in your power the late horrible outrages that have been committed in the town of Boston, and that you use your utmost endeavors that the Offenders may be found out and brought to Justice," etc.

It was in the Town of Milton that the Suffolk Resolves were adopted. In June, 1774, three months before the adoption of the resolves, a town meeting in Milton appointed a committee to "consider and determine upon some proper measures for this town to come into respecting the situation of public affairs." Capt. David Rawson, Ralph Houghton, Amariah Blake, Oliver Vose, Joseph Clapp, Dr. Samuel Gardner and Samuel Henshaw, Jr., constituted the committee. The report—an address to the people and a series of resolutions—was submitted to an adjourned meeting on July 25, 1774, "and was unanimously agreed to." One of the resolutions was: "That we will unite with our Brethren, 'The Sons of Freedom in America,' in any proper Measures that may be adopted to defeat the late Cruel and Oppressive acts of the British Parliament respecting America and this Distressed Province in Particular, to extirpate the idea of Tyrannizing which is so fondly Fostered in the bosoms of those in Power and to secure to our selves and to Posterity our invaluable Rights and Priviledges."

In the General Court, in the Suffolk Congress, in the Provincial Congress and on the field, Milton men were to be found doing their full duty, never faltering until the American colonies were forever freed from the British yoke.

In Needham three companies of minute men had been organized prior to the battle of Lexington. They were respectively commanded by Capt. Caleb Kingsbury, Capt. Aaron Smith and Capt. Robert Smith. The first numbered forty men, the second seventy, and the third seventy-five. About eight o'clock on the morning of April 19, 1775, a messenger (tradition says he was bare-headed) rode through Needham on his way to Dover and Dedham, carrying the news of the battle of Lexington. Ephraim Bullard, who kept a tavern on the Sherborn road, went to the top of a hill near by and fired his musket three times as a signal for the minute men to assemble. Fires were made in the house,

women assisted in moulding bullets and preparing rations for the men, and as fast as they could be supplied they started for the scene of the conflict.

The Needham companies encountered the British at West Cambridge, and lost no time in getting into action. First Lieut. John Bacon, Amos Mills and Nathaniel Chamberlain, of Captain Kingsbury's company were killed, and Second Lieut. Eleazer Kingsbury was wounded. Capt. Robert Smith's company lost Sergt. Elisha Mills and Jonathan Parker killed, and John Tolman, wounded.

Throughout the war Needham sustained her reputation for patriotism and loyalty to the cause of the colonists. Committees of correspondence and public safety were appointed from time to time, large sums of money for that period were raised to pay troops and provide for soldiers' families, and in every possible way measures were adopted to aid in a successful prosecution of the war. Col. William McIntosh, a Needham man, was commissioned colonel of the first regiment of militia in the County of Suffolk on February 14, 1776, and served to the close of the conflict. Washington commended him as "a good officer and a brave man."

At the time of the Revolution, Stoughton included the towns of Canton, Sharon and a large part of Foxboro. On September 26, 1774, Thomas Crane was elected representative to the General Court and instructed "to adhere firmly to the Charter of the Province as granted by their Majestys William and Mary & to do no act acknowledging the validity of the act of the British Parliament for altering the Government of Massachusetts Bay."

Two companies of minute men from what is now Sharon responded to the Lexington alarm on April 19, 1775. The first, numbering thirty-two men, was commanded by Capt. Samuel Payson, with Royall Kollock as lieutenant, and the second by Capt. Israel Smith, with Daniel Morse as lieutenant. This company numbered but twenty-two men.

Besides these two companies, seven others from Stoughton answered the call. They were Capt. James Endicott's, eighty-three men; Capt. William Briggs', forty-one men; Capt. Asahel Smith's, seventy-seven men; Capt. Peter Talbot's, eighty-five men; Capt. Josiah Pratt's, thirty-three men; Capt. Edward Savel's, sixty-four men; and Capt. Ebenezer Tisdale's, thirty-one men, making a total of 469 men that went from Stoughton at the first clash of arms. Captain Savel's company afterward responded to the second call for troops and assisted in the fortification of Dorchester Heights on the night of March 9, 1776, the movement which forced the British to evacuate Boston.

Nor did the activities of Stoughton stop there. On July 8, 1776, a meeting voted "to raise a sum of money to be levied upon polls and estates to give to each man to the number of thirty-eight (the town's assigned quota) that shall enlist in the service of the Northern Department against Quebec, the sum of £6 6s 8d as an addition to their bounty." At the same time fourteen prominent citizens each agreed to pay the poll-tax for two men that would enter the service as aforesaid.

Walpole adopted a series of resolutions in 1773, reported to a town meeting by a committee consisting of Aquilla Robbins, Enoch Ellis, George Payson, Seth Bullard and Samuel Cheney. Just what the text of the resolutions was it is impossible to say, but Henry E. Fales, in his address at the dedication of the town hall in 1881 says "they rang with patriotism and independence." Two com-

panies—Capt. Jeremiah Smith's and Capt. Seth Bullard's—a total of 132 minute men, marched from Walpole to Lexington, and in Captain Mann's company of Medfield there were twenty-five Walpole men. Later a Walpole company commanded by Capt. Aaron Guild assisted in fortifying Dorchester Heights. Captain Fisher's company took part in what was known as the Warwick expedition, and there was at least one Walpole man with Washington when he crossed the Delaware—Holland Wood, who served in the artillery. It is said that at the battle of Monmouth his gun fell from its carriage and that with his own unaided strength he replaced it and went on with the fight.

Weymouth took an active part in the events that preceded the Revolution. On October 16, 1765, Maj. James Humphrey, then representative in the General Court received definite instructions as to the course he was to pursue with regard to the Stamp Act. On September 21, 1768, James Humphrey and Dr. Cotton Tufts were appointed agents to meet in Faneuil Hall in Boston the next day, to consult with agents of other towns upon the state of public affairs. At a town meeting on January 3, 1774, it was decided "by a very great majority not to purchase nor use any of the East India Company's teas of any kind (excepting such as they might now have on hand) until the act of Parliament laying a duty thereon be repealed." In December, 1774, both precincts accepted the agreement and articles of association recommended by the Continental Congress.

On March 9, 1775, a committee of correspondence, of which Dr. Cotton Tufts was chairman, was chosen to act with similar committees of the neighboring towns. The first meeting of this committee was held at Arnold's Tavern at Weymouth Landing a few days later and from that time to the close of the war rendered efficient service. A company of minute men was organized and on March 13, 1775, it was voted to pay each member of the company a shilling a week for four weeks. On May 2, 1775, it was voted to pay "a pistareen a day for a week to a company of fifteen men for a military guard in the present troublesome times."

Nathaniel Bayley was chosen a delegate on May 24, 1775, to the Provincial Congress to meet at Watertown on the last day of that month, and at the same time the committee on correspondence was directed to ascertain who were in need of arms. The day following this meeting the town accepted the offer of Mr. Polley to allow the town the use of two swivel guns then at Salem, and Doctor Tufts agreed to have them brought to Weymouth.

These active preparations for war were largely due to an event that occurred on May 21, 1775. Three ships and a cutter came out from Boston Harbor and early on that morning dropped anchor in Weymouth Fore River. Alarm bells were rung, the Braintree minute men fell in at the tap of the drum, many of the women and children in the northern part of Weymouth were hurried to places of safety, and general consternation reigned. One report said that 300 men had been landed and were marching on Weymouth Village. Another rumor stated that they were marching against Germantown. As a matter of fact the British consisted of nothing more formidable than a foraging party, but in a little while enough minute men had been assembled to cause them to embark on their vessels and set sail for Boston.

The Declaration of Independence was read from the pulpits of both the Weymouth churches on the first Sunday after it was received, and was spread in full

upon the town records. About this time the town took steps to prevent a monopoly in articles of necessity and to fix prices at which such articles should be sold.

Just how much money was raised by taxation in Weymouth for the purpose of buying ammunition and paying bounties to soldiers, would be difficult to state. But from 1775 to 1778 there was scarcely a town meeting in which the question did not come up, and in a majority of instances of this kind appropriations ranging from twenty pounds to one thousand pounds were voted. Among the Weymouth men who served with distinction in the army may be mentioned Capt. Thomas Nash, who served under Washington during the siege of Boston and was officer of the day the night Dorchester Heights were fortified; Capts. Joseph Trufant, Samuel Ward, Asa White and Lieutenant Cushing, who were with Benedict Arnold in the Canada expedition; Lieuts. Samuel Kingman, Thomas Vinson, David Joy and Asa Dyer; and last but not least Gen. Solomon Lovell, who was in command of the Eastern Military District, the headquarters of which were in Boston. General Lovell also commanded a brigade in the Rhode Island campaign of 1778, and was commander of the unfortunate Penobscot expedition in 1779, which failed because of the failure of Commodore Saltonstall to coöperate with his fleet. Saltonstall was afterward cashiered for cowardice and inefficiency.

Wrentham began her revolutionary history at an adjourned town meeting on November 1, 1765, when a protest against the Stamp Act was placed on the records of the town and a copy forwarded to the General Court. It was drawn up by John Goldsberry, Jabez Fisher and Lemuel Kollock. The House of Representatives had under consideration a bill to grant compensation to the sufferers from the Stamp Act riots in Boston and free and general pardon to the offenders, and the town instructed its representative, Jabez Fisher, to support the measure.

A company of minute men was organized in January, 1775, and it was soon followed by another. The first was commanded by Capt. Oliver Pond; Wigglesworth Messinger, first lieutenant; Hezekiah Ware, second lieutenant. The officers of the second company were: Benjamin Hawes, captain; Timothy Guild, second lieutenant (no first lieutenant appears on the muster rolls). Capt. Samuel Cowell raised a company immediately following the Lexington alarm, and from the northerly part of the town went the companies commanded by Capts. Asa Fairbanks, Elijah Pond and David Holbrook. Still another company that was organized in 1775 (Samuel Warner says it marched to Lexington on April 19, 1775) was the one of which Lemuel Kollock was captain; Joseph Everett, first lieutenant; Swift Payson, second lieutenant. Capt. Thomas Bacon also commanded a Wrentham company which left the town on the last day of April, 1775. Captain Hawes afterward was promoted to colonel. In 1778 Lieut. Timothy Morse recruited twenty-four men in a short time in the bar-room of the old Wrentham Tavern for three years' service. Altogether Wrentham has no cause to be ashamed of her Revolutionary record.

Quite a number of the descendants of Revolutionary soldiers still live in Norfolk County. A few years ago the State of Massachusetts caused to be compiled and published complete rosters of the regiments and companies that served in the War for Independence. These volumes are in nearly every public library in the state, and by consulting them a full record of any individual soldier may be obtained. The records for the Norfolk County towns are too voluminous to be included in a work of this character.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

### WAR OF 1812—MEXICAN WAR

WAR OF 1812—RIGHT OF SEARCH—OTHER CAUSES OF THE WAR—NAPOLEON'S DECREES — BRITISH ORDERS IN COUNCIL — WAR DECLARED — IN NORFOLK COUNTY—WAR WITH MEXICO—ITS CAUSES—ARMY OF OCCUPATION—NORFOLK COUNTY IN THE WAR.

The story of Norfolk County's participation in the War of 1812 and the Mexican war is soon told, as both conflicts were unpopular in the New England States and only a few troops were enrolled in that section of the country. Not only was the number of soldiers few, but also the records of those who served in the army and navy in both the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico have not been carefully preserved, hence the historian is at a loss for adequate data.

#### RIGHT OF SEARCH

One of the causes of the War of 1812, sometimes called the "Second War with England," dates back almost to the beginning of the American Republic. That was the "Right of Search." Great Britain seems to have held to the theory "Once an Englishman always an Englishman," and claimed the right to search American ships on the high seas for such seamen. If one was found he was charged with being a deserter and "pressed" into the British service. Between the years 1796 and 1802, nearly two thousand American sailors were thus taken from vessels and pressed into the service of England. Although the United States authorities made frequent protests against this practice, it was not regarded as a sufficient cause for declaring war, and as England ignored the protests the impressment continued.

#### OTHER CAUSES OF THE WAR

During the closing years of the Eighteenth Century and the opening years of the Nineteenth France and England were at war, which gave a great impetus to American commerce. This trade was seriously interfered with in May, 1806, when Napoleon declared the ports of Bremen and Hamburg closed to neutral vessels. Great Britain immediately retaliated with her "Orders in Council," declaring the coasts of Belgium, Holland and Germany to the mouth of the River Elbe in a state of blockade. Napoleon's retort to these orders was the Berlin Decree of November 21, 1806, announcing a blockade against all the ports of England. More Orders in Council followed on January 7, 1807, prohibiting ships from neutral countries from trading from port to port in France, or with any

country in alliance with France. This closed practically all European ports to American commerce.

Throughout the remainder of the year 1807, "Orders" and "Decrees" were hurled back and forth between England and France. They could not be enforced, but they had the effect of making trade between either country and America unlawful and therefore dangerous. On December 22, 1807, President Jefferson approved "An act to prevent Americans from engaging in foreign commerce." This act, which became widely known as the "Embargo Act," met with great opposition from the New England States and under it smuggling flourished. So unpopular did it become that early in February, 1809, Congress declared by resolution that its effects should end with Jefferson's administration on March 4, 1809.

On that date President Madison was inaugurated and England sent David Erskine as minister to the United States. With him Madison negotiated a treaty which promised the withdrawal of the Orders in Council, at least so far as American trade was concerned, and as soon as the terms of the treaty were made public six hundred ships left American ports. But the London Cabinet refused to ratify the treaty and Mr. Erskine was recalled. F. J. Jackson was then sent to Washington as the English minister. He insulted President Madison by insinuating that Erskine had been duped into signing the treaty and was dismissed.

Thus matters went on from bad to worse, the relations between the two countries becoming constantly more strained. In the spring of 1810 France seized and confiscated American cargoes valued at \$10,000,000, because some of Napoleon's decrees had been violated. At the same time France agreed to set aside the decrees, provided England would rescind her Orders in Council. In the meantime the Embargo Act had been succeeded by another of the same character, not quite so arbitrary in its provisions, known as the "Non-Intercourse Act." After the confiscation of the cargoes by France, President Madison notified England that if the Orders in Council were not rescinded by February 2, 1811, the Non-Intercourse Act would be enforced against trade with that country.

In the fall of 1811 there was an uprising of the Indian tribes in the Ohio valley and it was charged that the insurrection was due to British influence, which increased the bitter feeling against Great Britain. The Orders in Council had not been rescinded and Madison by proclamation reinstated the Non-Intercourse Act. In a message to Congress on June 1, 1812, the President referred to the "paper blockades" and the "right of search," and recommended a formal declaration of war. The slogan of the republican party (Madison's party) in the political campaign just then opening was "Free trade and sailors' rights."

War was declared on June 18, 1812, and Congress ordered the regular army increased to 25,000 men, gave the President authority to call for 50,000 volunteers and 100,000 militia. Nearly every one of the Eastern States, by an act or resolution of the Legislature, prohibited the militia from going beyond the borders of the state. The opposition was greatest in Boston. Concerning the attitude of the people of that city, Carey, in his *Olive Branch*, says: "From the moment when war was declared, they clamored for peace and reprobated war as wicked, unjust and unnecessary. They made every possible effort to raise obstructions and difficulties in the prosecution of the war and yet reprobated the administration for their imbecility in carrying it on. They reduced the Government to

bankruptcy and reproached it for its necessities and embarrassments. In a word, all their movements had but one object—to enfeeble and distract the Government."

## IN NORFOLK COUNTY

With such an influence as that described by Carey at work in their immediate vicinity, it is not surprising that the people of Norfolk County failed to respond to the demands and requests of the national administration. However, some of the towns stood by the Government of the United States, and so far as possible to gather reliable information their work is herein given.

Samuel A. Bates says that Braintree was opposed to the war, but at a town meeting on May 28, 1812, "voted to make each man's pay, with the United States pay, fourteen dollars per month, as long as they are out in service." On September 16, 1814, when the shores of Massachusetts Bay were threatened by a British invasion, another Braintree town meeting "voted to add four persons to the selectmen, which shall be denominated a Committee of Safety. The selectmen at that time consisted of Caleb French, Dr. Jonathan Wild and Maj. Amos Stetson. The persons added were Jonas Welch, Capt. Thomas Hollis, Lieut. William Reed and Minot Thayer." At the same meeting it was voted "that the town raise the sum of \$300 to pay the troops, and that we pay the same that Randolph, Milton and Quincy pay." Mr. Bates says the only persons from Braintree, so far as he had been able to learn, who were in the service of the United States were John Isaac, Ebenezer Holbrook and James French.

Brookline stood by the administration better than some of the other towns. A company of volunteers was raised, of which Timothy Corey was captain; Robert S. Davis, lieutenant; Thomas Griggs, ensign; Daniel Pierce, sergeant. It numbered twenty-seven men in addition to the above named officers and was stationed at Fort Independence. Col. Thomas Aspinwall, a Brookline man, commanded a brigade and lost his left arm at the storming of Fort Erie, near Buffalo, New York, August 15, 1814.

In a Canton town meeting on May 4, 1812, six weeks before the formal declaration of war, it was voted to "make up the pay for persons volunteering to fourteen dollars per month, if they go into active service." At another meeting on August 15, 1812, it was voted "that such addition be made to the pay of those persons who were drafted from this town under the last requisition of the President of the United States as shall make their monthly pay eighteen dollars."

On September 12, 1812, it was ordered that each non-commissioned officer and soldier be furnished with sixty rounds of ball cartridges, and directed the selectmen to purchase immediately 600 pounds of pork, 200 pounds of beef and 800 pounds of bread for supplying the militia of the town, when called to defend their country, and to procure covered baggage wagons to be in readiness when the militia received orders to move. In 1813 Rev. Edward Richmond of Stoughton preached the fast day sermon in the Canton church, of which Rev. William Ritchie was then pastor, and in his sermon said something about the prosecution of the war that did not meet the approbation of the audience. A committee of fifteen, appointed for the purpose, made the following report to a town meeting on April 5, 1813:

"Gentlemen of the Town—Your committee, appointed to take into consideration the subject of Rev. Edward Richmond's fast day sermon, have attended to the duty assigned them and do recommend that the town pass a vote expressive of their disapprobation that the Rev. Edward Richmond should hereafter be introduced into the Desk of the Canton Meeting House on Lord's Days, Fast Days, Thanksgiving Days and Lecture Days, as a teacher of Religious Morality, &c., and that the Town Clerk be directed to serve the Rev. William Richey with a copy thereof without delay.

"ELIJAH DUNBAR, per order."

The record shows that the report was adopted and Mr. Ritchie was probably notified. The incident indicates that Canton was in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war. It is to be regretted that the names of the Canton soldiers in the War of 1812 cannot be learned, but the only muster rolls are in the custody of the war department at Washington.

In Cohasset a committee of safety was chosen and a coast guard company of seventy-five men was organized. A committee was then sent to Boston to ask arms and ammunition from the state. Governor Strong was absent and Lieutenant-Governor Cobb refused the request, recommending to Cohasset men "to hoist a white flag." The committee "was too spunky for that" and finally procured some muskets and a small field piece. In June, 1814, it was reported in Cohasset that a British man-of-war had sent a flotilla of barges to burn the shipping at Scituate and was preparing to do the same for Cohasset. Capt. Peter Lothrop was roused from his bed by a messenger from Scituate, hurriedly dressed, mounted a horse without a saddle and rode through the village awakening the members of his company. The citizens worked with the coast guard in throwing up earthworks at White Head, and when the British appeared the next morning they found what they thought was a large force ready to receive them and withdrew. Militia from Weymouth, Hingham and Scituate, with the artillery companies of Abington and Hanover marched to Cohasset and for three months the works at White Head were occupied by a garrison.

Dedham refused to join in the opposition to the war and took a decided stand in favor of the administration. Boston's communication requesting the Dedhamites to coöperate in measures to handicap the President was "promptly rejected." The town voted that every drafted man should receive from its treasury a sum sufficient to make his wages fifteen dollars a month while in actual service. Volunteers were recruited and drilled; in August some five hundred delegates from the towns of the county met in convention at Dedham and adopted resolutions expressing their approbation of the war; the Dedham Light Infantry, under Capt. Abner Guild, was on duty at South Boston for several months; large quantities of beef and pork were packed in West Dedham by Willard Gay and sent to towns along the coast that were blockaded by the enemy.

Foxboro was one of the towns that sent delegates to the Dedham convention in August, 1812. On July 2nd, several weeks before that convention, the town voted "to make up to the soldiers detached from the militia in Foxborough, with the government pay, twelve dollars per month for May, June, July, August, September and October, and ten dollars per month for November, December, January, February, March and April, if they are called into active service."

On August 22, 1814, it was voted "to make up to the soldiers of the last detachment, and all who may be detached in Foxborough previous to March next, eighteen dollars a month each, and each five dollars bounty." The bounty part was afterward reconsidered. Says E. P. Carpenter, in his centennial address at Foxboro, June 29, 1878: "In the absence of statistics showing the number of inhabitants of the town at the time, we are led to infer that Foxboro had a large representation of soldiers in the War of 1812."

Sharon furnished twenty-three men as her share of the state's quota of soldiers. They were in different commands, some of them being stationed about Boston Harbor, some about the Great Lakes and a few were with the army that invaded Canada.

Many of the young men of Weymouth enlisted for service in the army and navy. On May 21, 1812, before the declaration of war was made by Congress, a town meeting voted a bounty of five dollars and ten dollars per month pay while in active service to each enlisted soldier credited to the town. On June 30, 1814, it was voted to make the pay of non-commissioned officers and privates fifteen dollars per month, "and the same to those called out upon the alarm at Cohasset and who remained there until legally dismissed." On November 7, 1814, an appropriation of \$1,200 was voted "to pay the soldiers and build a powder magazine."

Wrentham sent a few men to the forts about Boston Harbor, but, as in the case of the other towns, the muster rolls are all at Washington and it is impossible to give the actual number. Dr. James Mann of Wrentham was a surgeon on the Niagara frontier and at the battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane.

It is quite probable that some of the other towns sent men to aid in the prosecution of the war. Ebenezer Wilkinson and Daniel Fuller were drafted in Dover, and Medway furnished her quota. Quincy was a strong Federalist town and stood with Boston in opposition to the war, though a few men went from the town and served at points along the coast. The same is true of Milton and Randolph.

#### WAR WITH MEXICO

The causes of the war between the United States and Mexico go back as far as 1810, when the Mexican revolution against Spanish domination was commenced. In 1821, after the Mexican Republic was established, Moses Austin obtained permission from that government to plant a colony in what is now the State of Texas, but which then belonged to Mexico. Austin's colonists came from different parts of the United States, and it was not long until they grew dissatisfied with Mexican rule. The United States offered to purchase the territory, but all offers were rejected. More Americans went into the region and in 1835 they revolted against the Mexican government. General Santa Anna, then president of the Mexican Republic, led an armed force into Texas to quell the rebellion. His army was defeated by the Americans under Gen. Sam Houston on April 21, 1836, and Santa Anna was captured. Houston forced him to sign a treaty recognizing Texas as a republic. Houston was elected president.

The independence of Texas was recognized by the United States and in April, 1844, the citizens of that country asked to be annexed to the United States. In 1845 Texas was not only annexed, but in December of that year it was admitted into the Union as a state. Then a dispute over the boundaries arose between this

country and Mexico, the latter contending that the boundary line was the Nueces River, while the Texans claimed the country to the Rio Grande—a claim that was supported by the United States authorities.

On January 13, 1846, President Polk sent Gen. Zachary Taylor, with the "Army of Occupation," to the disputed territory, under instructions to hold it until the dispute was settled. Mexico sent an army to drive out the invaders. The first attack on the American troops was made on April 25, 1846, but it was only a slight skirmish. On May 8th Taylor defeated the Mexicans in the battle of Palo Alto, and the next day at Resaca de la Palma. War was formally declared by Congress on May 13, 1846, when the regular army was ordered to be increased to 30,000 men and the President was authorized to call for 50,000 volunteers.

#### NORFOLK COUNTY IN THE WAR

The Mexican war was even more unpopular in New England than the War of 1812. The district occupied by General Taylor, which was the cause of the controversy, was so far removed that the people took little or no interest in the matter. In a general way it is known that a few men volunteered from the County of Norfolk, but neither the state nor town authorities appear to have been sufficiently concerned to preserve a record of such volunteers. Histories of about half of the towns in the county have been published, in which no mention whatever is made of the War with Mexico.

Five men—Charles Andrews, Capt. George Crane, Erastus Prior, William Wood and Timothy Wiggin—enlisted in Col. Caleb Cushing's regiment. Captain Crane had previously been captain of the Quincy Light Infantry. Colonel Cushing was a member of the same family as the Weymouth Cushings, several of whom enlisted from that town in the Civil war.

Brookline sent a few volunteers under Colonel Mansfield, but no record of their services can be found. Colonel Mansfield was commissioned brigadier-general soon after the beginning of the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Antietam in September, 1862.

So far as known, Henry Hunnewell was the only man to enlist from the Town of Foxboro in Colonel Cushing's regiment. Medfield had organized a militia company in 1839 and a few of its members joined Colonel Cushing's command for service in the war. It is probable that, all told, Norfolk County did not furnish more than fifty men. The war ended with the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848.

## CHAPTER XXXIX

### WAR OF THE REBELLION

THE SLAVERY QUESTION—CONDITIONS IN 1819—THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE—POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OF 1860—SECESSION OF THE SOUTHERN STATES—STAR OF THE WEST—FALL OF FORT SUMTER—LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR TROOPS—ANSWER OF MASSACHUSETTS—WHAT THE TOWNS DID—RECAPITULATION.

Almost from the very beginning of the American Republic, the slavery question became a dominant issue in politics between the free states on the one side and the slave states on the other. Slavery was introduced into America in 1619, when a Dutch trader sold a few negroes to the planters of the Jamestown colony. The custom of owning negro slaves gradually spread to the other colonies, but slave labor was found to be unprofitable in the northern part of the country and by 1819 seven of the original thirteen states had made provisions for the emancipation of their slaves.

The first clause of Section 9, Article I, of the Federal Constitution provides that "The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by Congress prior to the year 1808."

The adoption of this clause was regarded by the slaveholding element as a victory, inasmuch as under it Congress had no power to interfere with the foreign slave trade until 1808. In that year Congress passed an act prohibiting any further traffic in or importation of negro slaves. Then the slavery question was injected into American politics.

#### CONDITIONS IN 1819

In 1819 slavery existed in six of the original thirteen states, the other seven having abolished it as already stated. In the meantime Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama had been admitted into the Union under constitutions permitting slavery, while Vermont, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had been admitted as free states, so that the country was evenly divided—eleven free and eleven slave states. Maine was admitted as a free state in 1820, giving the opponents of slavery a majority of two in the United States Senate.

#### THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE

Immediately upon the admission of Maine, the advocates of slavery sought to have Missouri admitted as a slave state, in order to maintain the equilibrium in

the United States Senate, as it had been for the past decade. After a long and somewhat acrimonious debate, that state was admitted in 1821 under the act known as the Missouri Compromise, which provided for the admission of Missouri without any restrictions as to slavery, but expressly stipulated that "in all the remaining portion of the Louisiana Purchase, north of the line of  $36^{\circ} 30'$ , slavery shall be forever prohibited."

During the next quarter of a century the slavery question remained comparatively quiet, owing to the admission of free and slave states in equal number. At the conclusion of the Mexican war in 1848, the United States came into possession of a large expanse of country in the Southwest, to which the advocates of slavery immediately laid claim, and again the slavery question came up as a subject for congressional consideration. The passage of the compromise act, usually called the "Omnibus Bill," was held by the free-state people as a violation of the provisions of the Missouri Compromise, because it sought to carry slavery north of the line of  $36^{\circ} 30'$ . Four years later the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed, which added fresh fuel to the already raging flames. Its passage was the chief cause of the organization of the republican party, which opposed the extension of slavery to any of the new territory of the United States whatever.

#### POLITICAL CAMPAIGN OF 1860

In 1860 the newly organized republican party nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois as its candidate for the Presidency and the issues were clearly defined. Some of the slave states announced during the campaign that in the event of Mr. Lincoln's election they would withdraw from the Union. The people of the North gave little heed to these declarations, regarding them as so many idle threats, made merely for political effect. Through a division in the democratic party, Mr. Lincoln was elected and on December 20, 1860, South Carolina carried her threat into effect, when a state convention at Charleston passed an ordinance of secession, declaring that state's connection with the Union was severed and that all allegiance to the United States Government was at an end.

Mississippi followed with a similar ordinance on January 9, 1861; Florida seceded on January 10th; Alabama, January 11th; Georgia, January 19th; Louisiana, January 26th; and Texas on February 1st. All these states except Texas sent delegates to a convention at Montgomery, Alabama, February 4, 1861, at which a tentative constitution was adopted; Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was elected provisional president; and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, provisional vice president of the Confederate States of America. They were inaugurated on February 22, 1861, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Consequently, when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, he found seven states in open rebellion, with an organized government, in opposition to his administration. Notwithstanding this state of affairs, the President, his cabinet and the people of the North generally, clung to the hope that a reconciliation could be effected and that the citizens of the seceded states could be induced to return to their allegiance. In that hope they were doomed to be disappointed.

#### STAR OF THE WEST

More than two months before Mr. Lincoln's inauguration the relations between the North and South were still further strained by the action of Maj. Robert

Anderson, who was in command of the defenses of the Harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. Major Anderson, about the beginning of the year 1861, secretly removed his garrison and supplies from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, because the latter could be more easily defended in case of an assault. The people of the South claimed that this move was in direct violation of an agreement with President Buchanan, and the feeling was intensified when it was learned that Major Anderson, upon leaving Fort Moultrie, had spiked the guns there, rendering them useless. The northern press was practically unanimous in upholding Major Anderson, and in demanding that additional supplies and reinforcements be sent to him at Fort Sumter. The persistent hammering of the newspapers of the North caused the war department to despatch the steamer "Star of the West" with 250 men and a stock of ammunition and provisions to Fort Sumter. While this vessel was passing Morris Island on January 9, 1861, she was fired upon by a masked battery and forced to turn back. In the official records, this incident is regarded as the beginning of the Civil war, though the popular awakening of the North did not come until about three months later.

#### FALL OF FORT SUMTER

Toward the close of March, 1861, General Beauregard, who was in command of the Confederate forces at Charleston, made a formal demand upon Major Anderson for the surrender of the fort. Anderson refused, but on April 11, 1861, seeing that his stock of provisions was running low and being uncertain of obtaining a new supply, he informed General Beauregard that the fort would be vacated on the 15th, "unless ordered to remain and the needed supplies are received." This reply did not please the Confederate commander, who feared that the new administration would find some way of sending supplies and reinforcements to Anderson that would enable him to hold the fort indefinitely. In such a case, Fort Sumter would be a constant menace to one of the greatest of the Confederate strongholds. Beauregard called a council of his officers, at which it was determined to force Anderson to evacuate. At 3:20 A. M., April 12, 1861, Beauregard sent word to Anderson that fire would be opened upon the fort within an hour, unless in the meantime a promise that the fort would be immediately abandoned was received. Major Anderson ignored the communication and at 4:30 Capt. George Janes fired the signal gun from Fort Johnson, the shell bursting almost directly over the fort. A few seconds later a solid shot from the battery on Cummings' Point went crashing against the walls of Sumter. The war had begun.

Anderson's little band of heroes responded promptly and the cannonading continued all day. Late in the afternoon fire broke out in one of the casemates of the fort and the Confederates redoubled their fire, hoping to force Anderson's surrender. That was on Friday. Anderson held out against desperate odds until Sunday, the 14th, when he was permitted to withdraw from the fort with all the honors of war, even to saluting his flag with fifty guns before it was taken down.

When the telegraph flashed the news of Sumter's fate through the loyal states of the North, all hope of bringing about a peaceable settlement of the differences between the two sections of the country was abandoned. Party lines were obliterated in the North; political controversies of the past were all forgotten in the insult to the flag; and there was but one sentiment—The Union must and shall be

preserved. On Monday, April 15, 1861, the day following the evacuation of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln issued the following

PROCLAMATION

"Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past and now are opposed and the execution thereof obstructed in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law :

"Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the Laws, have thought fit to call forth, and do hereby call forth, the militia of the several states of the Union to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combinations and cause the laws to be fully executed.

"The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the state authorities through the War Department.

"I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity and the existence of our National Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already too long endured.

"I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistent with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country.

"And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

"Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both houses of Congress. Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock, noon, on Thursday, the 4th day of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this 15th day of April, A. D. 1861, and of the Independence of the United States, the 85th.

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"By the President:

"W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State."

ANSWER OF MASSACHUSETTS

On April 15, 1861, the same day the President's proclamation was promulgated, Gov. John A. Andrew received a telegram from the war department ask-

ing him to forward 1,500 men to Washington, or wherever they might be ordered. The order was transmitted to the various militia commands of the state and the next morning the troops began pouring into Boston. The first to arrive were three companies from Marblehead, of the Eighth Regiment. Then came the companies of the Fourth Regiment from Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol counties. They were quickly followed by the Fifth Regiment and by six o'clock on the afternoon of the 16th three regiments were ready to go, while new companies were forming in all parts of the state. Such was the response of the Old Bay State to the first call for men to uphold the constitution and laws of the United States when threatened by secession.

The Fourth Regiment, Massachusetts militia, was commanded by Col. Abner B. Packard of Quincy. As soon as he received the call he sent word to all the company commanders to assemble their men at once and report on Boston Common at noon on the 16th. The captains of the companies sent messengers to the men and at the appointed time practically the entire regiment was in Boston, but the meeting place was changed to Faneuil Hall instead of the Common.

Company D of this regiment was composed chiefly of citizens of the Town of Randolph. It was organized in 1855 as the Randolph Light Infantry, with Hiram C. Alden as its first captain. When the order for mobilization was issued on the afternoon of April 15, 1861, it was discovered that this company had no commissioned officers, so the order was sent to Sergt. Hiram F. Wales, who spent the whole night in notifying the men, with the result that "every man was at his post" on the following day. Upon reaching Boston, Horace Niles was elected captain; Otis S. Wilbur, first lieutenant; Hiram F. Wales, second lieutenant.

Company F was a Foxboro organization, which had been in existence since it was first formed under the act of January 22, 1776. At the time the first call for troops was issued in 1861 it claimed to hold the oldest charter of any military company in the state. David L. Shepard was captain in April, 1861; Moses A. Richardson, first lieutenant; Carlos A. Hart, second lieutenant. Alvin E. Hall, a Foxboro man, was sergeant-major of the regiment.

Company H came from Quincy. Of this company Franklin Curtis was captain; Edward A. Spear, first lieutenant; Benjamin F. Meservey, second lieutenant. This company was known as the Hancock Light Guard, so named in honor of John Hancock, while the Foxboro company bore the name of the Warren Light Guard, as a tribute to Gen. Joseph Warren, who fell at Bunker Hill.

The Fourth Regiment was ready to start for the front on the 16th, but no transportation could be furnished until the following day. The men spent the night in Faneuil Hall and on the 17th left for the seat of war—the first regiment to leave Massachusetts. At Fall River the regiment embarked upon the steamer "State of Maine" and late on the 17th arrived in New York. The vessel was not properly ballasted and Colonel Packard telegraphed Governor Andrew for instructions. The governor replied: "If the captain says he can carry your men, go on. Massachusetts must be first on the ground." After a little delay in ballasting the boat, the journey was continued and on the 20th the regiment reported for duty at Fortress Monroe.

## WHAT THE TOWNS DID

Seven of the Norfolk County towns have been organized since the close of the Civil war, viz.: Holbrook, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Wellesley and Westwood. Their military history is therefore embraced in that of the towns from which they were taken.

Bellingham's first act was to appropriate \$2,000 for the purpose of fitting out and drilling the men who enlisted. In July, 1862, the town offered a bounty of \$100 to every man who would volunteer, until the quota of seventeen men was obtained, and ten dollars additional to every one who enlisted within ten days. The following month came the call for volunteers for nine months and the town offered a bounty of \$200, those enlisting for three years to receive \$700. In September, 1862, the sum of \$5,000 was voted to pay the town's volunteer soldiers. Early in the year 1865, only a short time before the close of the war, the town expended \$1,000 in caring for the families of men in service. Out of a total of 169 men subject to military duty, the town sent thirty-three men into the army.

Braintree was one of the first towns in the county to respond to the call for troops in 1861. The Braintree Light Infantry reported at Boston on April 16, 1861, and was mustered in as Company C, Fourth Regiment, with Cephas C. Bumpus, captain; James T. Stevens, first lieutenant; Isaac P. Fuller, second lieutenant. It accompanied the regiment to Fortress Monroe the next day. At a town meeting on April 26, 1861, the sum of \$1,500, "or such part thereof as might be necessary," was appropriated for the relief of soldiers' families. Without following in detail the numerous appropriations made for bounties and aid for soldiers' families, it is sufficient to say that during the war the town expended a total of \$27,930.51, exclusive of the sum later refunded by the state. The town furnished 508 men to the army and navy under all calls.

Brookline's contribution to the army and navy was 610 men. Col. Theodore Lyman of this town was an officer on the staff of Gen. George G. Meade. On the memorial tablets in the town hall are the names of seventy-two men who were killed in action or died of wounds or disease while they were in the service of their country. Figures are wanting to show how much the town expended for bounties and soldiers' aid during the war, but it is well known that Brookline did her part.

Canton furnished 350 men for military service, which was twenty-three in excess of her quota. The total population in 1860 was 3,342, hence it may be seen that more than ten per cent answered their country's call. At a meeting held on April 29th it was voted "to provide all suitable and necessary aid to families of volunteers living in the town." How much was expended under this somewhat indefinite order it would be impossible to say, but the total amount of money raised and expended for military purposes and aid was \$30,415.71, of which the state afterward refunded \$13,020.75. Thirty-five of Canton's sons lost their lives during the conflict.

Cohasset was represented in the Fourth Regiment, the first to be ordered to the front, and from that time until the last call for volunteers she was ready with her quota. Three commissioned officers and 187 enlisted men were the town's contribution to the army and navy, and the total amount of money raised

and expended was \$33,330.61, though \$15,928.74 of this was afterward refunded by the state.

Dedham had no militia company in April, 1861, when President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 men, but the young men of the town lost no time in organizing one, in anticipation that a second call would be made. In August, 1861, this company was mustered into the United States service as Company F, Eighteenth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The officers of the company were: Henry Onion, captain; Charles W. Carroll, first lieutenant; Fisher A. Baker, second lieutenant. Nine Dedham men were enrolled in Company H of the same regiment. From that time to the close of the war, the muster rolls of the army bore the names of 672 Dedham men, and the town raised and expended a total of \$136,090.81, of which the state subsequently refunded \$51,000. The tablets in the Memorial Hall bear the names of forty-seven who sacrificed their lives upon the altar of their country. Of these forty-seven twenty-nine were killed in action or died of wounds.

Dover was one of the smallest towns in the county in population and wealth in 1860, but she sent forty-four volunteers into the army and made generous appropriations for the care of soldiers' families, though the exact amount of these appropriations cannot be ascertained. Sixteen of the forty-four volunteers that went out from Dover never returned to their homes.

Foxboro, as already stated, furnished a company to the Fourth Regiment—the first to leave the state. But the town did not stop with that one company. A number of Foxboro men were enrolled in the Eighteenth Infantry, which was mustered in for three years on August 27, 1861, and the town was also represented in the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Seventeenth, Twentieth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-eighth, Fortieth, Forty-seventh, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Infantry; the Second, Third and Fourth Cavalry; and furnished nineteen men to the artillery arm of the service. Eleven Foxboro men served in the regular army, two in the navy, and it is known that twenty citizens volunteered in organizations in other towns and were not credited to Foxboro as they should have been. The amount expended for bounties and enlistment expenses was \$21,742.48, in addition to which over seven thousand dollars were raised by private subscription.

Franklin did not get in on the first call for troops, but under the second its quota was twenty-three men and thirty-six responded. On the announcement that only twenty-three were wanted, one of the extra thirteen answered: "Well, we will all go, if we have to go on foot and alone." The thirty-six men became part of Company C, Forty-fifth Regiment, of which Lewis R. Whitaker of Franklin was commissioned second lieutenant. A similar thing happened under the call of August, 1862, when the town's quota was thirty-four and forty-three enlisted. Altogether, 218 Franklin boys "wore the loyal blue." Individual citizens gave liberally to the bounty fund and to aid soldiers' families, and the town was not niggardly in its appropriations, though just how much was appropriated cannot be learned.

Medfield furnished eighty-two men for the army and navy and appropriated at different times a total of \$5,571 on account of the war. Private subscriptions for the relief of soldiers' families amounted to nearly as much more. The first

volunteer from Medfield was Allen A. Kingsbury. The morning after the news of the attack upon a Massachusetts regiment by a mob at Baltimore, Maryland, he went to Chelsea and enlisted in a company that was being organized there. Of the eighty-two men who went out from Medfield, fourteen never returned.

Medway, which then included the present Town of Millis, sent 384 men into the ranks from the beginning to the end of the war. In 1862 a town meeting adopted a resolution to have prepared an accurate record of each soldier credited to the town. This was about a year before the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began the work of compiling complete data regarding the state's volunteers, and it is believed to have been the first action of the kind taken within the state. As a result of this resolution, Medway has a brief biographical sketch of every soldier she sent to the field under the various calls of the President—a total of 384, including a small number of reënlistments. The town also furnished money to relieve sick and disabled soldiers, pay bounties to volunteers and care for the families of those who enlisted.

Milton's war records are unfortunately scant, both with regard to the number of men furnished and the amount of money appropriated for military purposes. H. B. Martin some years ago collected the names of 157 volunteers credited to Milton, but it is a well established fact that at least one hundred Milton men enlisted in organizations outside their town and their enlistments credited elsewhere. Louis N. Tucker, regarded as the best drill-master in Boston at the breaking out of the war, was a Milton boy, as was also James S. Reed, the best drill-master in San Francisco. After preparing hundreds of raw recruits for real service these two men went to the front themselves. One died upon the field and the other was wounded.

Needham kept step with the other towns of the county, both in men and money. From first to last the town is credited with having furnished 308 men, distributed through twenty-seven infantry regiments, four regiments of heavy artillery, five regiments of cavalry, three field batteries and the navy. On April 29, 1861, it was voted that fifteen dollars per month be paid to each volunteer from the town, for a period of six months. At the same meeting it was decided to establish a "military committee," to assume general supervision of the formation of a company, render such assistance as may be required to those having charge of procuring volunteers, investigate the condition of soldiers' families, etc. The committee was composed of E. K. Whitaker, C. B. Patten, Calvin Perry and Benjamin G. Kimball. Some changes were made in the personnel of the committee, but it remained in existence until the close of the war and exercised a general control over the expenditures of appropriations, etc.

Quincy was the banner town of the county, both in the number of soldiers furnished to the army and the promptness with which the town responded to every call for volunteers. At the beginning of the war the population was about six thousand seven hundred, of whom probably twenty-two hundred were capable of bearing arms. Of these, 954 entered the army or navy—over forty per cent of those liable for military duty. About fifty thousand dollars was appropriated by the town or raised by subscription for military and relief work.

Mention has already been made of Randolph's part under the call of April 15, 1861, and how Sergeant Wales worked all night to notify the members of the Randolph Light Infantry. Under the call of July 4, 1862, for 300,000 men

for three years or during the war, sixty-two citizens of Randolph placed their names upon the muster roll of Company E, Thirty-fifth Infantry. Upon the organization of the company Horace Niles, who had served as captain in the Fourth Regiment during the three months' service, was chosen captain; Jonathan W. Ingell, first lieutenant; William Palmer, second lieutenant. Captain Niles died on September 27, 1862, of wounds received at the battle of South Mountain on the 14th. Altogether, the town, which included the present Town of Holbrook, furnished 919 men, though several of these should have been credited to Milton. Eighty-one of those who went out never came back. No statistics are at hand to show how much money Randolph paid in bounties and in relief work, but in this respect the town was not a laggard.

Sharon's enrollment was 127, really a few more than the town was required to furnish. In addition to this, several patriotic citizens employed soldiers at their own personal expense. Appropriations were made from time to time to pay bounties and provide for the families of those who were at the front.

Stoughton's story of the part she played in the Civil war is soon told. She furnished fifteen commissioned officers and 507 enlisted men to all branches of the military service, and expended \$119,524.67, but of this amount the town afterward received from the state the sum of \$39,652.12. The muster rolls of Stoughton's soldiers were destroyed by fire a few years after the war.

Walpole furnished 115 men for the three years' service, thirty-one men for nine months, twenty-one joined the navy, and when the call for 100 days' men came toward the close of the war, eight citizens of the town responded, making a total of 175. Besides this number a few Walpole men are known to have enlisted in regiments credited to other states. David W. Lewis, a Walpole man, was a captain in the Ninth Vermont, and Henry L. Godbold was a first lieutenant in the First Pennsylvania Artillery. The town also did its share in appropriations of money for military purposes and the relief of soldiers' families. On the memorial tablets in the town house are the names of those who died in service.

Some years ago Gilbert Nash compiled a list of the Weymouth soldiers in the War of the Rebellion. He prefaces the list with the following statement: "The following record of soldiers sent by the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts, into the Union service during the great Rebellion of 1861-65, with the exception of a few errors corrected by the compiler, is taken chiefly from the town archives, kept in accordance with acts of the Massachusetts Legislature, approved March 7 and April 29, 1863, and is believed to be substantially correct."

Mr. Nash's list contains 801 names. James L. Bates rose to the rank of brigadier-general; Benjamin F. Pratt was brevetted brigadier-general; Eliot C. Pierce was major in the Thirteenth Infantry; Ephraim L. Warren, major in the Twenty-second Infantry; Francis A. Bicknell, major in the Thirty-fifth Infantry; six Weymouth men held commissions as captains; seventeen as lieutenants; eighty-one served as non-commissioned officers; and twenty-three were in the navy. Ira W. Bragg, a surgeon in the navy, died while in service. Those who remained at home did their part in appropriating money for raising and equipping soldiers and in providing for the necessities of their families.

Wrentham's contribution to the Union army consisted of 242 men who served in Massachusetts regiments, five in other states, and eight in the navy, a

total of 255 men. On May 6, 1861, a town meeting was held at which the following resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote:

"Resolved, by the legal voters of the Town of Wrentham, in town meeting assembled, that the sum of ten thousand dollars be and the same is hereby granted for the support, encouragement and relief of those of our fellow-townsmen who have gone and of those who may hereafter go into the service of the United States as soldiers, and of their families.

"Resolved, that the money thus appropriated be expended by the selectmen, to be assisted by a committee of three, if necessary, of whom the treasurer shall be one.

"Resolved, that each volunteer shall receive from the town while in active service an amount sufficient, with the government pay, to make his monthly pay twenty-five dollars; and the further sum of one dollar per week be paid to the wife and for each child under fifteen years of age, and one dollar a day for each day spent in drilling previous to being mustered into the United States service.

"Resolved, to provide suitable uniforms and all necessary equipments and clothing not provided by the government, to each citizen of Wrentham who shall enlist in the military service.

"Resolved, that the treasurer be authorized to borrow on the credit of the town such sums of money as shall be ordered by the selectmen, not exceeding ten thousand dollars."

The appropriation of ten thousand dollars authorized by these resolutions was only the beginning. Before the close of the war Wrentham had expended \$31,531.23, a portion of which was afterward refunded by the state.

#### RECAPITULATION

According to the United States census for 1860, the population of Norfolk County was then 109,950. The first regiments were mustered into the United States service for three months only, the general impression then being that the war would not last beyond that time. After these regiments were mustered out, many of the men who had served in them entered the three years' service. The names of such men appear more than once upon the muster rolls. Including these reënlistments the county sent 7,750 men into the army and navy, distributed among the several towns as follows:

Bellingham .....	33
Braintree .....	508
Brookline .....	610
Canton .....	350
Cohasset .....	190
Dedham .....	672
Dover .....	44
Foxboro .....	341
Franklin .....	218
Medfield .....	82
Medway .....	384
Milton .....	257

Needham .....	308
Quincy .....	954
Randolph .....	919
Sharon .....	127
Stoughton .....	522
Walpole .....	175
Weymouth .....	801
Wrentham .....	255
<hr/>	
Total .....	7,750

Norfolk County soldiers were in the early battles of the war; they were with Sherman on the Atlanta campaign and the famous "March to the sea"; they assisted in the siege of Petersburg and the capture of Lee at Appomattox; they were with Farragut at Mobile, and wherever they went they gave a good account of themselves. After the war they returned to their homes and resumed their peaceful occupations, demonstrating to the world that a republic could rely upon its citizen soldiery when the country's institutions were assailed.

## CHAPTER XL

### FINANCIAL HISTORY

COUNTY FINANCES—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES—  
BANKING INSTITUTIONS—THE LAND BANK—NORFOLK COUNTY BANKS—  
SKETCHES OF BANKS IN THE ORDER OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENT—COOPERATIVE  
BANKS—NORWOOD'S MORRIS PLAN BANK.

In the chapters relating to the various towns mention is made of the property valuation and other financial matters, and in this chapter is treated the financial condition of the county. Norfolk County has been fortunate during the two and a quarter centuries of her corporate existence in having men of integrity to manage her financial affairs. Debts have been incurred from time to time, but in every instance it was for some necessary public improvement, and the bonds issued have been promptly taken care of at maturity, except in rare cases where they have been refunded by a new issue.

According to the report of the county treasurer for the year ending on December 31, 1916, the total annual receipts of the county amounted to \$700,663.15. The principal sources of revenue were from the county tax levied upon the several towns and the City of Quincy and from temporary loans in anticipation of the year's taxes. Of the county tax, the largest sum was paid by the Town of Brookline and the smallest by the Town of Plainville. The former paid \$115,290.85 and the latter \$875.14. The temporary loans aggregated \$225,000 and the county tax \$295,000. On the other side of the account, the expenditures for the year were as follows:

Highways, bridges, etc.....	\$ 70,316.45
Courts .....	40,808.11
Reduction in county debt.....	32,000.00
Jails and houses of correction.....	28,190.99
Salaries of county officers and ass'ts.....	21,345.51
Court expenses (civil).....	20,263.43
Criminal costs in Superior Court.....	17,678.54
Care and supplies, county buildings.....	28,182.84
Interest on county debt.....	10,162.99
Agricultural school.....	8,400.00
Clerical assistance, county offices.....	27,383.16
All other expenses.....	29,139.89

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Total .....\$333,871.91

In this table temporary loans are not included, though they were repaid during the year. As to the actual financial standing of the county at the close of the year 1916, the following statements of assets and liabilities are taken from the report of the county commissioners. In the case of public buildings, the site and fixtures are included in the figures given:

## ASSETS

Courthouse, Dedham .....	\$ 402,000.00
Courthouse, Quincy .....	100,000.00
Registry Building, Dedham.....	298,000.00
Jail, Dedham.....	333,500.00
Real estate, Dedham.....	4,300.00
Agricultural school.....	75,000.00
Training school, Walpole.....	25,500.00
Law library, Dedham.....	40,000.00
Furniture (not included in above).....	120,000.00
Cash in treasury, December 31, 1916.....	17,148.82
Total .....	<u>\$1,415,448.82</u>

## LIABILITIES

Registry Building loan.....	\$ 91,382.98
Quincy Courthouse loan.....	32,000.00
Agricultural School loan.....	75,000.00
Granite Avenue Bridge loan.....	30,000.00
Neponset Bridge loan.....	22,630.00
Total .....	<u>\$251,012.98</u>

By a comparison of these two tables it will readily be seen that the county, in its corporate capacity, holds more than five and a half dollars in assets for every dollar of liabilities. Provisions have been made for the payment of the county debt annually, the amount of the annual payment decreasing from \$39,680 in 1917 to \$550 in 1933.

## BANKING INSTITUTIONS

One of the earliest banking concerns—if not the first—in Massachusetts was the Land Bank, which was proposed in 1714 but seems not to have been placed in operation until 1739. For eight or ten years before the latter date the General Court had been issuing bills of credit for current expenses, the issue of 1741 amounting to about forty thousand pounds. It was then proposed to borrow in England a sum in specie equal to the outstanding bills of credit and pay the debt. Then the Land Bank came forward with the proposition to give credit for £150,000. The bank was composed of over seven hundred stockholders, each one of which was to mortgage land equal to the amount of his stock, and no personal security for more than £100 was accepted.

The scheme looked plausible enough, but it failed to work in practice. Men of standing in business circles refused to receive the bills issued by the bank and it was not long until the institution was in deep water. At a town meeting in Dedham in 1740 the question came up as to whether the constables should be instructed to receive Land Bank bills. A majority voted in the affirmative, but eight men entered a protest and insisted upon having their objections made a matter of record. The refusal of merchants and manufacturers to receive the bills soon sounded the knell of the Land Bank. Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts, says it "produced such great and lasting mischiefs that a particular relation of the rise, progress and overthrow of it may be of use to discourage and prevent any attempts of the like nature in future ages."

#### NORFOLK COUNTY BANKS

In July, 1917, there were thirty-eight banking institutions in Norfolk County. To attempt to give a detailed history of each of these banks, their changes of location, lists of officers and directors, etc., is deemed inadvisable in a historical work of this nature, but the following brief sketches give the principal points in the career of each, and will give the reader a fair idea of the county's banking business for the last century.

The oldest bank in the county is the Dedham National, which was organized on March 21, 1814, at a meeting held at Martin Marsh's Tavern, on Court street. It was organized as a state bank and on the 25th Willard Gay was elected president and Jabez Chickering, cashier. The bank began business in two rooms in the north end of the house of Capt. Nathaniel Guild, where a stone vault six by eight feet and seven feet in height was built for the bank's use. The first issue of bills was made on April 28, 1815, in denominations of five, six, seven and eight dollars, "all to be printed with stereotype plates." The bank started with a capital stock of \$50,000 and on October 20, 1815, declared its first dividend of 4 per cent. The stock was gradually increased to \$300,000.

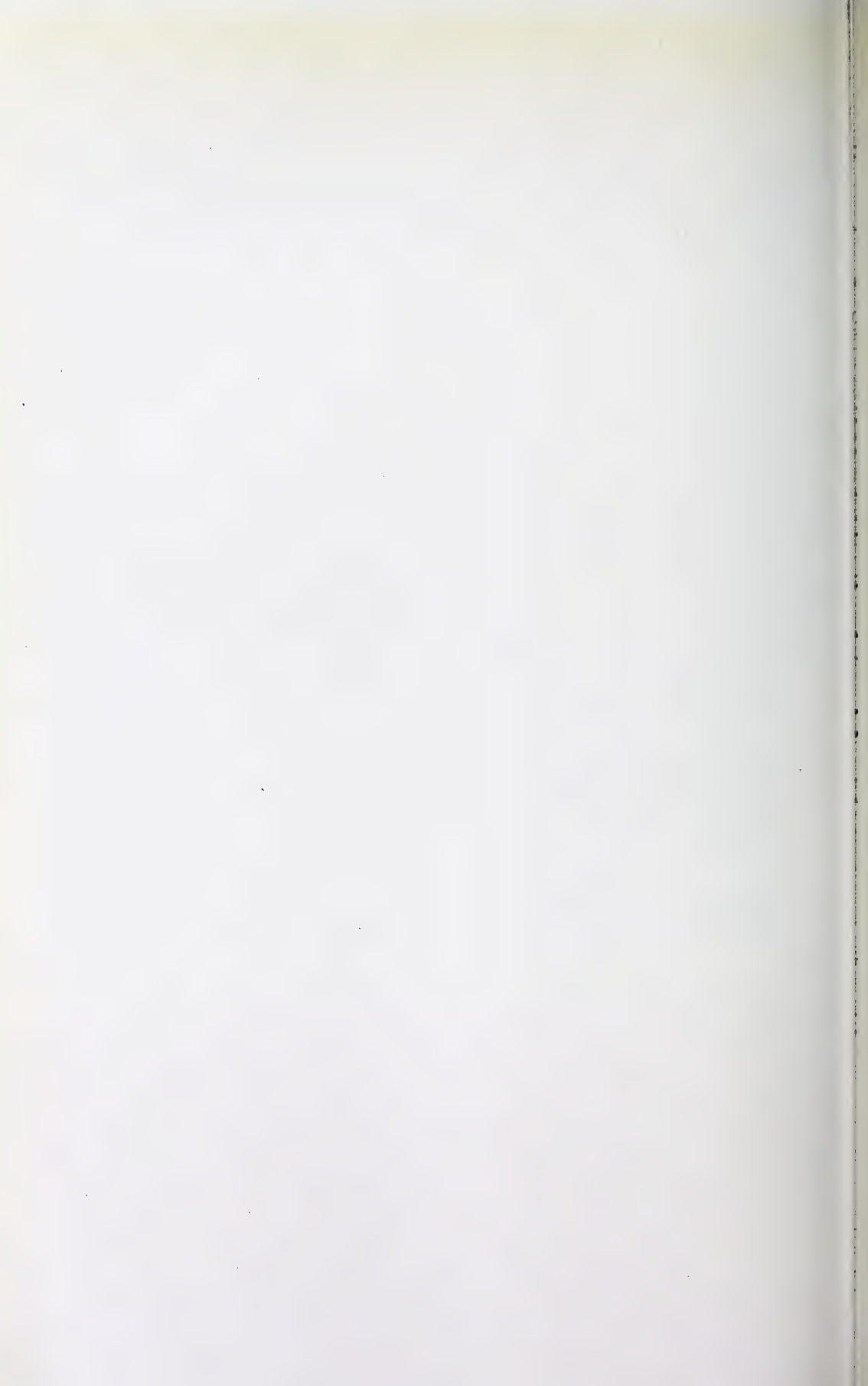
On February 1, 1865, the institution was reorganized as a national bank, with Dr. Jeremy Stimson as president and Lewis H. Kingsbury as cashier. In August, 1892, it removed to its present quarters in the building of the Dedham Institution for Savings, and on July 11, 1912, opened its safe deposit vaults. On July 6, 1911, the capital stock was reduced from \$300,000 to \$150,000, where it has since remained. At the beginning of the year 1917 the Dedham National reported a fund of \$150,000 in surplus and undivided profits, and deposits of \$540,000. Allan Forbes was then president and E. A. Brooks cashier.

In 1831 the Dedham Institution for Savings was incorporated, with Rev. Ebenezer Burgess as president and Jonathan H. Cobb as treasurer. The institution began business on May 4, 1831, and Mr. Burgess remained at its head until December 7, 1870. At the beginning of the year 1917 Clifton P. Baker was president and Joseph H. Solliday was treasurer. The institution then reported an undivided profits fund of \$180,000 and deposits of \$4,300,000. It erected the building opposite Memorial Hall in 1892.

The Union Bank of Weymouth and Braintree was incorporated on March 17, 1832, and began business at Weymouth Landing on the 11th of April, with Josiah Vinton, Jr., as president. Its original capital stock was \$100,000. On Septem-



DEDHAM NATIONAL BANK



ber 6, 1864, it was reorganized as the Union National Bank of Weymouth and the capital stock was afterward increased to \$400,000. After a fairly successful career as a national bank for more than a quarter of a century it wound up its affairs and went out of business.

In 1832 the Blue Hill National Bank of Milton was incorporated under the state laws as the "Dorchester and Milton Bank," with a capital stock of \$100,000. It was at first located in the Town of Dorchester. In 1850 the bank was burglarized by the notorious Jack Wade gang and robbed of about thirty thousand dollars. The next year the name was changed to "Blue Hill Bank." In December, 1864, it was reorganized as the Blue Hill National Bank and in 1882, under a special act of Congress, it removed from Dorchester to Milton. The first president of the bank was Moses Whitney, who served from 1832 to 1848. At the beginning of the year 1917 the officers were: Robert F. Herrick, president; Jesse B. Baxter, vice president; S. J. Willis, cashier. At that time the bank reported a capital stock of \$100,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$90,000, deposits, \$525,000.

Another bank organized in 1832 was the Bank of Wrentham, which was incorporated under the state laws with a capital stock of \$100,000. Philo Sanford was the first president and Calvin Fisher, Jr., its first cashier. Some years ago it was reorganized as the "National Bank of Wrentham." H. A. Crowell was president of the bank at the beginning of 1917, and J. E. Carpenter was cashier. The capital stock at that time was \$52,500; surplus and undivided profits, \$28,000; deposits, \$75,000.

The Weymouth and Braintree Institution for Savings was incorporated on February 16, 1833, by Asa Webb, Whitcomb Porter and Warren Weston. It did not begin business until about a year after its incorporation, when it opened with Dr. Noah Fildes as the first president. This bank is now known as the Weymouth Savings Bank, and at the close of the year 1916 reported surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$140,000 and deposits of \$700,000. C. A. Hayward was then president; F. W. Hunt and J. H. Flint, vice presidents; Charles F. Crane, treasurer.

On March 4, 1835, an act of the Legislature incorporated the Canton Institution for Savings, with Thomas French, president; Friend Crane and Jonathan Stone, vice presidents; James Dunbar, secretary and treasurer. This concern has done a successful business for more than eighty years. Its officers at the beginning of the year 1917 were: F. D. Dunbar, president; A. E. French and E. H. R. Revere, vice presidents; Walter Ames, treasurer. At that time the surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$100,000 and the deposits to \$940,000.

The Neponset Bank of Canton was incorporated on the last day of March, 1836, with Frederic W. Lincoln as president and James Dunbar as cashier. On March 1, 1865, it was reorganized as the Neponset National Bank, with Charles H. French as president and Francis W. Deane as cashier. Subsequently the capital stock was increased to \$250,000.

The Neponset National Bank has been succeeded by the Canton Trust Company, which was organized in 1896, with a capital stock of \$100,000. On March 10, 1917, it removed into its new building near the railroad station. Guy A. Ham was then president and J. H. Landick, cashier. The deposits then amounted to \$225,000.

In 1836 Quincy's first bank—the Stone Bank—was organized under the laws of the state. In 1864 it was reorganized as the National Granite Bank of Quincy, and still later as the Granite Trust Company, under which name it is still doing business. The officers of this company at the beginning of the year 1917 were: Theophilus King, president; Delcevere King, vice president; R. F. Claflin, secretary and treasurer. The capital stock of the company was then reported as \$150,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$260,000; deposits, \$800,000. A branch was opened at Mount Wollaston in 1916.

The Randolph Bank was organized as a state institution in 1836 with a capital stock of \$150,000. After Congress passed the national banking act, this bank was reorganized as a national bank and the capital stock was increased to \$200,000. It is no longer in existence, having gone into voluntary liquidation some years ago.

On February 28, 1845, the Cohasset Savings Bank was incorporated with Paul Pratt as president; Thomas M. Smith, secretary; Levi N. Bates, treasurer. At the beginning of the year 1917 the officers were as follows: Charles W. Gammons, president; George W. Collier, vice president; Russell B. Tower, secretary; Caleb Lothrop, treasurer. The deposits then amounted to \$1,230,000 and the surplus and undivided profits to \$86,000.

The Quincy Savings Bank also began business in 1845 and for almost three quarters of a century it has been one of the substantial banking houses of Norfolk County. At the close of the year 1916 it carried deposits of \$4,800,000 and reported surplus and undivided profits of \$237,000. Herbert T. Whitman was then president; Richard D. Chase, vice president; and Clarence Burgin, treasurer.

The Randolph Savings Bank was incorporated and began business in April, 1851. Its officers at the close of the year 1916 were: Herbert F. French, president; Rufus A. Thayer and John H. Field, vice presidents; N. I. Tolman, treasurer. At that time the bank carried deposits of \$1,700,000 and reported a surplus and undivided profits fund of \$108,000.

In 1853 the National Mount Wollaston Bank was organized as a state bank and continued as such until after the passage of the national banking act by Congress, when it was reorganized. This bank reported at the beginning of the year 1917 a capital stock of \$150,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$90,000; deposits, \$800,000. H. M. Faxon was then president; Arthur H. Alden, vice president; H. F. Spear, cashier.

The Foxboro Savings Bank was organized in 1855 and has done a successful business from its beginning. In the spring of 1915 it moved into a fine new building erected for its accommodation. On the second floor of this building are the Foxboro town offices and the third floor is used as a club room. Lewis E. Gray was president of this bank at the beginning of the year 1917; Horace G. Smith and Jarvis Williams, vice presidents; George R. Ellis, clerk of the corporation; Harrie F. Gray, treasurer. The bank then carried \$848,000 in deposits and reported undivided profits of \$33,000. Three times within the last ten years this bank has declared extra dividends from its earnings.

On October 31, 1864, the First National Bank of South Weymouth received its charter and commenced business soon afterward, with a capital stock of \$150,000 and B. F. White as president. Two years later it purchased a building and moved into it, and from that time to the present has done a successful banking

business. At the close of the year 1916 E. R. Hastings was president; George L. Barnes, vice president; J. H. Stetson, cashier. In the meantime the capital stock had been reduced to \$100,000; the surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$50,000, and the deposits to \$220,000.

The Franklin National Bank was organized in 1865 by James P. Ray, Moses Farnum and others, with a capital stock of \$200,000. James P. Ray was the first president. At the beginning of the year 1917 this bank reported a capital stock of \$100,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$131,000; deposits, 350,000. E. H. Rathbun was then president; Albert D. Thayer and Bradley M. Rockwood, vice presidents; J. E. Barber, cashier; Laura E. Blake, assistant cashier.

The South Weymouth Savings Bank was incorporated on March 6, 1868, by Benjamin F. White and others and began business about a month later. At the beginning of 1917 it reported deposits of \$1,600,000, and surplus and undivided profits of \$140,000. R. W. Hunt was then president; E. J. Pitcher and A. B. Raymond, vice presidents; F. T. Barnes, treasurer; L. L. Whitman, assistant treasurer.

The Braintree Savings Bank, located at South Braintree, began business in 1870. Its condition at the close of the year 1916 was one that indicated prosperity, the bank reporting surplus and undivided profits of \$566,000 and deposits of \$665,000. The officers at that time were: B. F. Dyer, president; L. B. Hollis and G. V. Pennock, vice presidents; F. E. Dyer, treasurer.

On February 21, 1871, the Benjamin Franklin Savings Bank of Franklin was incorporated with Davis Thayer, Jr., as president, and Charles W. Stewart as treasurer. At the annual meeting on July 9, 1917, the following officers were elected: Elisha P. Chapman, president; Walter M. Fisher, Horace W. Hosie, Adelbert D. Thayer and Orestes T. Doe, vice presidents; Albert C. Mason, clerk; Charles L. Stewart, treasurer. The surplus and undivided profits then amounted to \$56,000 and the bank carried deposits of \$890,000.

The Medway Savings Bank was also organized in 1871 and is the only bank ever established in that town. The following officers were elected in March, 1917: A. E. Bullard, president; S. G. Clark, W. L. Palmer and E. F. Richardson, vice presidents; W. N. Hitchcock, clerk; William H. Upton, treasurer. The deposits then amounted to \$450,000 and the surplus and undivided profits to \$50,000.

Another bank that began business in 1871 was the Brookline Savings Bank. It is still in existence and is one of the largest banks in the county, measured by the volume of business transacted. At the close of the year 1916 it reported deposits of \$6,600,000; a guaranty fund of \$200,000; surplus and undivided profits, \$200,000. Charles H. Stearns was then president; A. H. Latham and A. E. Kenrick, vice presidents; E. M. Farnsworth, vice president and treasurer.

The East Weymouth Savings Bank commenced business in 1872. A few years ago it erected a building for a home, on the second floor of which are the Weymouth town offices. In July, 1917, this bank reported assets of \$1,907,206, a surplus of \$170,000, and deposits of \$1,730,000. W. H. Pratt was then president; F. H. Emerson and E. M. Carter, vice presidents; J. A. Raymond, treasurer.

In 1886 the Brookline Trust Company was incorporated with an authorized capital stock of \$100,000. At the beginning of the year 1917 it reported deposits of \$2,300,000 and a surplus of \$75,000. The officers at that time were as fol-

lows: Ernest B. Dane, president; Albert J. Meserve, Jr., vice president; G. A. Whitney, treasurer.

In 1898 Roger W. Babson began business as private banker at Wellesley Hills. Mr. Babson also does a considerable business in buying and selling securities, but no data concerning his business are obtainable.

The Wellesley National Bank was organized in 1904, with a capital stock of \$50,000 and opened its doors for business soon after receiving its charter. Charles N. Taylor was president of this bank at the beginning of 1917; Benjamin H. Sanborn, vice president; B. W. Guernsey, cashier. At that time the bank reported surplus and undivided profits of \$59,000 and deposits of \$1,000,000.

In 1905 the Milton Savings Bank was incorporated. H. C. Gallagher was president of this bank at the close of the year 1916; John Talbot was vice president; F. A. Gaskins, treasurer, but no statement of its financial condition is given in the Bankers' Directory.

The Norwood National Bank was organized in 1907, with a capital stock of \$100,000. On July 2, 1917, it was reorganized as the Norwood Trust Company and the capital stock was increased to \$200,000. On August 1, 1917, it moved into its new building. George F. Willett is president; Walter F. Tilton, vice president; Edson D. Smith, secretary; Clarence A. Rathbone, treasurer. At the time the reorganization was made the institution reported deposits of \$1,750,000 and a surplus of \$65,000.

The Foxboro National Bank was established in 1909, with a capital stock of \$50,000. It occupies quarters in the new building of the Foxboro Savings Bank. A statement issued in June, 1917, shows a surplus fund of \$16,100 and deposits of \$228,740. B. B. Bristol was then president; W. S. Kimball, vice president; Fred H. Richards, cashier.

In 1910 the Needham Trust Company was organized with a capital stock of \$50,000 and began business soon after it was incorporated. Of this company William Carter is president; William G. Moseley, vice president; James H. Whelton, secretary; H. P. Newell, treasurer. At the beginning of the year 1917 it reported a surplus and undivided profits fund of \$33,000 and deposits of \$375,000.

The Boulevard Trust Company of Brookline was organized in 1911 with a capital stock of \$100,000 and at the close of the year 1916 it reported deposits of \$970,000 and surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$35,000. William A. McKenney was then president; Frank A. Russell, vice president; George M. J. Bates, vice president and treasurer.

About the time the above company began business, the Stoughton Trust Company was incorporated. Its authorized capital stock is \$100,000 and during the first five years of its existence placed \$14,000 of its earnings in the fund of surplus and undivided profits. At the close of the year 1916 it reported deposits of \$635,000. Guy A. Ham was then president; Ira F. Burnham and James D. Henderson, vice presidents; Fred D. Leonard, treasurer.

On July 9, 1915, the Randolph Trust Company opened its doors for business, and on January 3, 1916, it removed into its new building. A statement issued by this company on June 20, 1917, shows a capital stock of \$60,000; a surplus and profits fund of \$12,415; and deposits of \$358,000. The officers at that

time were: James D. Henderson, president; Louis E. Flye and Charles D. Hill, vice presidents; Frank W. Vye, treasurer.

The Quincy Trust Company was also organized in 1915 with a capital stock of \$100,000. Since it began business it has accumulated a fund of surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$30,000, and carries deposits of \$200,000. Chester I. Campbell was president at the beginning of the year 1917; John Curtis, Robert E. Foy and P. E. Barbour, vice presidents; Herbert E. Curtis, treasurer. Herbert E. Curtis is also treasurer of the Norfolk Trust Company, which was organized in 1916.

The Walpole Trust Company, the youngest banking concern in the county, began business in July, 1917, with Henry P. Kendall as president; Philip R. Allen, vice president; Stephen P. Cushman, secretary; Charles E. Barrett, treasurer. It is located in the Plimpton Building and sixty days after it began business reported assets of \$215,000.

In addition to the above regular banking institutions, several of the towns in the county have what are known as "coöperative banks," the purpose of which is to loan money on first mortgage security on real estate for a longer period of time than ordinary banks. They are much the same as the building and loan associations of other states. Through the medium of the coöperative banks many people have obtained loans of considerable sums and these loans have been repaid in easy installments, so that the borrower is not subjected to providing for payment all at one time.

Norwood has what is called a "Morris Plan Bank," with a capital stock of \$25,000. It occupies the building formerly used by the Norwood National Bank. W. H. Brown is president; James M. Folan and Frank A. Morrill, vice presidents; Alfred L. Atwood, clerk and treasurer. The Morris Plan banks in America originated with Arthur J. Morris of Norfolk, Virginia, who worked out a plan of applying the system of the industrial banks of France, Germany and Italy to similar institutions in this country. Loans\*are repaid in weekly installments running through a period of one year.

## CHAPTER XLI

### MANUFACTURING

FIRST NEEDS OF THE PIONEERS—BOOTS AND SHOES—IRON WORKS—COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS—PAPER AND WOOD PULP—STRAW GOODS—MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES—STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1915.

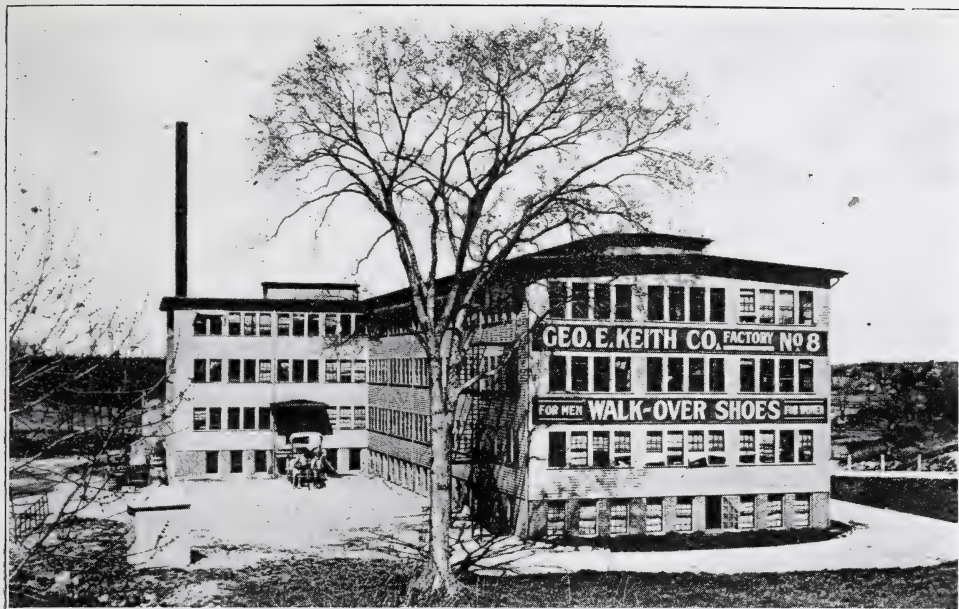
Among the first settlers of Norfolk County food and shelter were the prime necessities. The first manufacturing establishments were therefore saw and grist mills of the most primitive character, to provide lumber for building dwelling houses and breadstuffs for the table. These mills were always located on some stream and were run by water power. Tracts of land and water privileges were granted to individuals by several of the towns almost as soon as they were organized, on condition that the grantee would build a mill. The history of these early mills will be found in the chapters relating to the towns in which they were situated.

#### BOOTS AND SHOES

Footwear was another article that the pioneers understood would be a necessity. To provide a supply of boots and shoes, Thomas Beard was brought over in the Mayflower, "to be maintained at the public charge (not exceeding ten pounds a year) and to be employed at such places as the govern. might designate." Mr. Beard was the first shoemaker in New England. He brought over with him a supply of leather, the freight charges on which was four pounds per ton. Within twenty years from the time he made his first pair of shoes in this country, Lynn was exporting shoes. From that time to the present, New England has been the great shoe manufacturing center of the United States.

Randolph and Braintree were the pioneer shoemaking towns of Norfolk County. About the beginning of the Nineteenth Century Samuel Hayden started in the manufacture of shoes in Braintree and Thomas French in Randolph. In those days the workmen took the work to their homes, each one making all parts of the boot or shoe upon which he was employed. The factory building did not come until some years later. Mr. French also established a tannery and made his own leather, or at least a considerable portion of it, while the Drinkwater tannery, on the Monatiquot River in Braintree, was the chief source of Mr. Hayden's supply. In 1880 there were twenty-six shoe manufacturers in Randolph alone, employing nearly eight hundred people. The finished product from the shoe factories of Braintree and Randolph was conveyed by wagon to Boston.

Weymouth was also an early shoe manufacturing town. Says Gilbert Nash: "As late as the beginning of the present century (1801) there were probably not



GEORGE E. KEITH COMPANY SHOE FACTORY, EAST WEYMOUTH



ALDEN, WALKER & WILDE SHOE FACTORY, EAST WEYMOUTH



more than three or four persons who manufactured this class of goods for other than the home market, and those gave employment to only a few apprentices, besides what they could do themselves. These goods were carried to Boston market either upon the backs of the manufacturers, who made the journey on foot, or else in saddle-bags upon horses. The beginnings of this trade were at Weymouth Landing, spreading thence to the north and south villages, reaching latest of all the east, which now surpasses all of the others in the magnitude of its business in this line. It was a whole generation before it became necessary to employ a 'baggage wagon,' the clumsy pioneer of the present express, and the buildings used in carrying on the manufacture would hardly suffice for offices at the present day, the goods being made wholly at the homes of the workmen, nearly all of whom had little shops in or near their dwellings, the work being prepared and packed only at the factory. As late as 1840, it was a large factory that produced five hundred dollars' worth of goods in the week."

John Linfield started in the manufacture of shoes in Stoughton in 1816, in a building that occupied the site where the town hall was afterward built in 1880. Isaac Beals, the second in the industry in this town, began in 1821. Later he formed a partnership with Simeon Drake, who became prominent in the business after Mr. Beals retired. In 1880 there were fifteen shoe factories in the town, doing a business of over a million dollars annually.

A shoe factory was established in Medway about 1830, and five years later was employing about three hundred persons. John Mann began making boots and shoes in Walpole in 1836 and the following year he formed a partnership with Truman Clarke, under the firm name of Clarke & Mann, which did a thriving business for about twelve years, when Mr. Mann purchased his partner's interest. The great fire in Boston brought financial disaster and forced him to wind up his business.

In 1848 E. & W. Fairbanks began making shoes at Caryville, in the Town of Bellingham. In 1864 William Fairbanks became the sole proprietor and during the next ten years enlarged the factory until it employed about one hundred workmen. Upon his death in 1874 the business was sold to Houghton, Coolidge & Company of Boston, who conducted the plant until it was burned on July 25, 1874. Along in the '60s there were four boot and shoe factories in Bellingham, but they have either been discontinued or removed to more favorable locations.

A number of Medfield citizens organized a company for the manufacture of boots and shoes in 1851, built a factory and began business. The quality of the goods turned out by this factory was excellent, but the venture proved to be unprofitable and after a few years the factory was closed.

According to the last Directory of Massachusetts Manufactures, issued by the Bureau of Statistics in 1915, there were then nineteen shoe factories in Norfolk County, distributed as follows: Avon, Doherty Brothers Shoe Company; Braintree, D. B. Closson & Company, Slater & Morrill, Rice & Hutchins and the Williams-Kneeland Company; Holbrook, the Fiske Shoe and Leather Company; Millis, Joseph M. Herman & Company; Quincy, H. M. Hanson Shoe Company; Randolph, Richards & Brennan Company and the Royal Shoe Company; Stoughton, M. F. Kelley (Three K. Shoe Company) and Upham Brothers Company; Weymouth, Alden, Walker & Wilde, Edwin Clapp & Son, George H.

Cunningham & Son, George E. Keith Company, James A. Pray, Stetson Shoe Company and the George Strong Company.

Closely allied to the boot and shoe industry are the business of tanning and finishing leather and the furnishing of cut stock and findings, in both of which lines there are several establishments in the county. In Canton are the Canton Leather Company, the Crow Blacking Company and the Morse Brothers, the Crow Blacking Company having a capacity of from eight hundred to one thousand hides finished as patent leather daily. Two large plants—the Smith Plant and the Winslow Plant—are operated in Norwood by the Winslow Brothers & Smith Company. Walpole also has a large tanning and finishing plant, and in Weymouth the following firms manufacture and deal in cut stock and findings: George L. Bates, George H. Bicknell, Henry B. Chandler, Frank D. Daly, C. H. Kelly and William M. Staples. The George E. Belcher Last Company and the Stoughton Stamping Company, both of Stoughton, manufacture annually large quantities of lasts for the shoe factories.

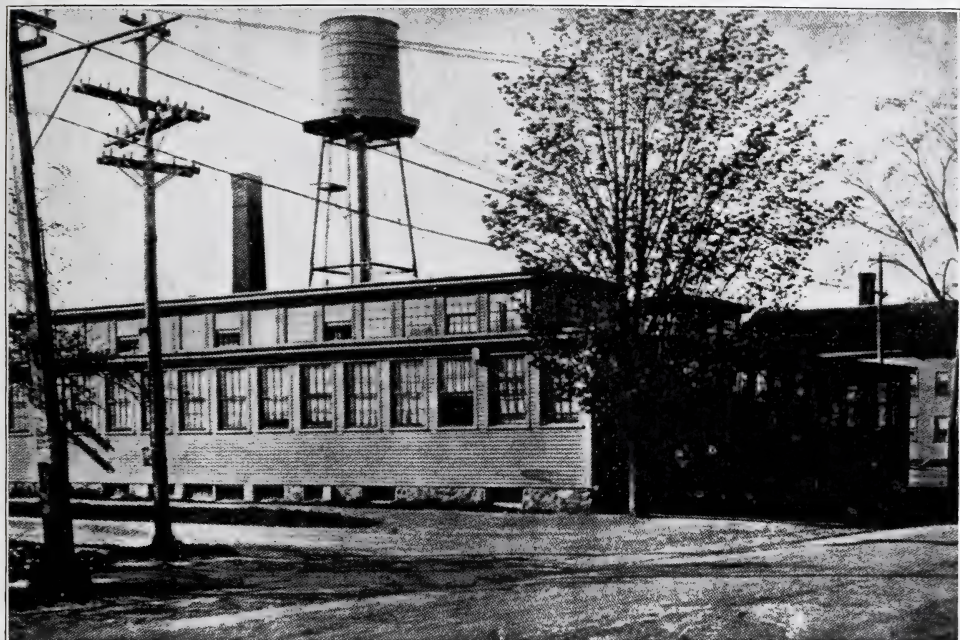
Within recent years a number of concerns have been established for the manufacture of rubber boots and shoes, or rubber heels and soles for leather shoes. Among the factories of this kind in Norfolk County are: F. H. Appleton & Son, of Franklin; the Massachusetts Chemical Company, of Walpole; the Monatiquot Rubber Works, of Braintree; the Plymouth Rubber Company and the Stoughton Rubber Company, of Stoughton.

#### IRON WORKS

Some time prior to 1643 John Winthrop, Jr., organized a company in London for the purpose of establishing an iron works in Massachusetts. He brought over stock and machinery valued at one thousand pounds and a number of workmen who understood the manufacture of iron from the ore. On January 19, 1643, this company received a grant of 3,000 acres of land and built the works on the Monatiquot River, in the easterly part of Braintree. The company was not successful in the undertaking and failed after about ten years.

John Hubbard of Boston rebuilt the dam about 1681 and put up a saw mill, iron works and forge near the site of the old iron works, but his dam interfered with the passage of the fish up the Monatiquot and one night a number of men destroyed the dam. Several lawsuits followed until the town purchased the water privilege, which settled the difficulty.

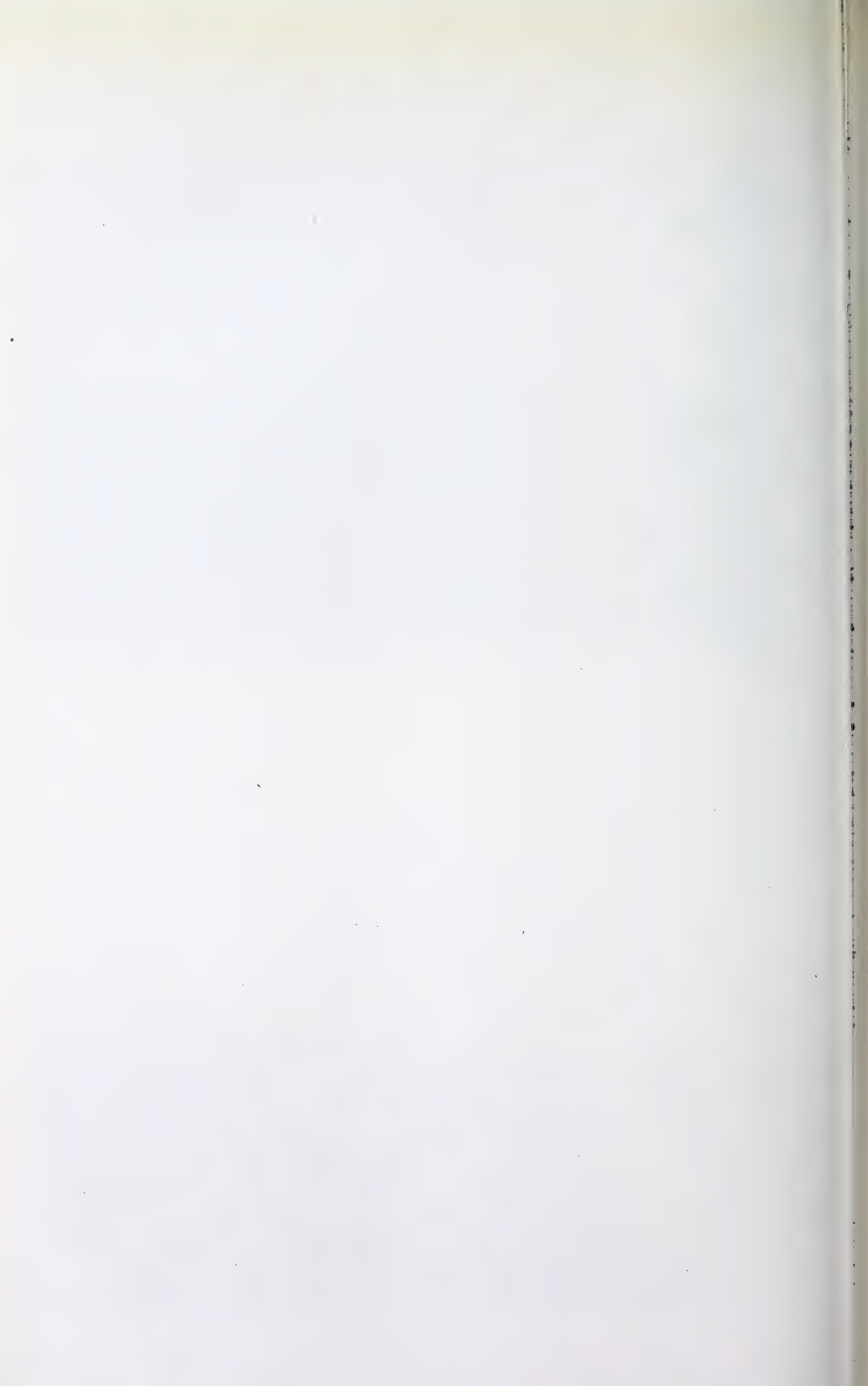
In the chapter on Sharon, mention is made of the little iron furnace of Ebenezer Mann, in the southern part of the town, and the manufacture of cannon from the iron ore about Massapoag Lake, at the time of the Revolution. In 1787 the Kinsley Iron and Machine Company built a factory in Canton and began the manufacture of steel by the German process. Large numbers of mill saws were turned out by this concern before the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. The manufacture of firearms was then commenced and during the War of 1812 the United States Government contracted with this company for several thousand muskets. The original firm of Leonard & Kinsley was dissolved in 1821, when Adam Kinsley became the sole owner. He added a foundry in 1833 and in 1837, upon his death, he was succeeded by his sons, Lyman and Alfred Kinsley, who began the manufacture of car wheels in 1845. A rolling



UPHAM'S SHOE FACTORY, STOUGHTON



PLYMOUTH RUBBER FACTORY, STOUGHTON



mill was added in 1853 and in 1855 the Kinsley Iron and Machine Company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$200,000. At one time this company employed over two hundred men, but the inconvenience of location finally caused it to go into liquidation.

A bell foundry was opened at Canton in 1801 by Paul Revere & Son, who had previously been engaged in the same line of business in Boston. The company cast bells, cannon and all kinds of composition work of iron and copper. Paul Revere died in 1818 and his son, Joseph W. Revere, continued the business until 1828, when the Revere Copper Company was incorporated. The buildings once used by this company were purchased by the Plymouth Rubber Company in 1909 and a branch factory established.

George Holbrook established a bell foundry in Medway in 1815 and carried on a successful business for years, his bells summoning people to worship in almost every state of the Union. After the death of the founder the business gradually declined and was finally abandoned entirely.

About 1813 the manufacture of cut nails was established in Medfield. The factory was on a little stream, a short distance below the old stone mill on the road to Dedham. The undertaking was not a success. Another nail mill was built on Mother Brook (in Dedham) in 1814, but it met with no better results than the one in Medfield, and the factory passed into the hands of Jabez Chickering, who converted it into a mill for combing worsted. In 1822 Oliver Ames and Elijah began the manufacture of shovels, nails and tacks in Braintree. The nail and tack department was conducted by Elijah Howard and his son Jason, with Apollos Randall as a partner, until about 1875, when Jason Howard, the only surviving partner, retired. The shovel department was a great success, the Ames shovels being in great demand all over the country on account of their superior quality.

In 1868 James T. Stevens and George D. Willis built a small factory on the corner of Tremont and Taylor streets in the Town of Braintree and began the manufacture of tacks and nails. About 1871 they moved to Weymouth, and still later to South Braintree, where the business was incorporated under the name of the Stevens & Willis Company. This company makes nails, spikes, cut steel and iron nails and wire nails.

The East Weymouth Iron Company was incorporated in March, 1837, with a capital of \$150,000, which was subsequently doubled. The works of this company were located at the foot of Whitman's Pond, on the Weymouth Back River and for several years did a prosperous business, employing at times about three hundred men. Along in the '80s it gave up everything except the manufacture of nails and finally quit business altogether.

In 1825 S. M. Fales was running a small foundry in the western part of Walpole. He sold it in that year to General Leach of Easton, who put in a blast furnace and manufactured all kinds of machinery for about twenty years, when he sold the plant to George & Thomas Campbell, who converted it into a paper mill. This plant is now in Norfolk.

Henry Plimpton began the manufacture of hoes in Walpole as early as 1813. Later he added other farm implements and steel springs to his products. After several changes in ownership, the property was sold in 1865 to the Linden Spring and Axle Company. Part of the mill was used by Stephen Pember as a shoddy

factory until it burned down. Another factory for making farm implements was located at Rakeville, in the Town of Bellingham. It was established by J. O. Wilcox, who was succeeded by his son, D. E. Wilcox, and shipped its goods to all parts of New England. This factory was discontinued some years ago.

In 1915 the establishments in Norfolk County working in iron, steel and other metals were as follows: Braintree—the Vanadium Metals Company, brass and bronze products; the repair shops of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company; the Dow Manufacturing Company, electrical machinery; the Stevens & Willis Company, already mentioned; M. A. Haskell & Company, sewing machines and attachments. Brookline—Holtzer-Cabot Electric Company; E. S. Ritchie & Sons, scientific instruments; J. Koch & Son, wirework, including wire rope and cable. Canton—Leslie Manufacturing Company, cutlery and tools; the Electric Goods Manufacturing Company. Foxboro—the American Coil Company, electrical supplies; Foxboro Foundry Company; Massachusetts Radiator Company; Standard Gauge Manufacturing Company. Franklin—Clark Machine and Foundry Company; Golding Manufacturing Company; Murdock & Geb Company. Medway—United Awl and Needle Company, cutlery and tools. Needham—Hopewell Railroad Supply Company. Norwood—American Brake Shoe and Foundry Company; J. E. Plimpton & Company. Quincy—Connors Manufacturing Company of Norfolk Downs, and Daniel J. Nyhan, brass and bronze goods; David T. Drummond, Gustaf Wilbas, Pinel Tool Company and Vulcan Tool Company, cutlery and tools; S. H. Couch & Company of Norfolk Downs, electrical machinery and supplies; Boston Gear Works, M. A. Campbell, V. J. Emery, John F. Kemp, Pneumatic Scale Company and Wollaston Foundry Company, foundry and machine shop products. Sharon—H. A. Lothrop & Company, cutlery and tools. Stoughton—F. E. Benton, brass and bronze goods; George E. Belcher, foundry and machine shop; Stoughton Stamping Company. Walpole—L. F. Fales, foundry and machine shop; William Mahoney, bed springs. Wellesley—American Mica Company, electrical machinery and supplies.

#### COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS

It may not be generally known that the first cotton mill in Norfolk County—which was one of the earliest in the State of Massachusetts—was built in Canton in 1803, by James Beaumont, Lemuel Bailey and Abel Fisher. The first product turned out was wick yarn for candle makers, then warp and filling for sheeting, and a little later the first piece of cotton cloth ever woven by machinery in Massachusetts was turned out at this mill.

Two years after the Canton mill was projected, John Blackburn, Philo Sanford and others built a cotton mill in Medway for the manufacture of yarns. Mr. Blackburn was a practical manufacturer, having been previously associated with Samuel Slater of Rhode Island, who built the first cotton mill in the United States. The Medway mill began with 820 spindles in March, 1807. Later looms were added and the concern did a general cotton manufacturing business. On August 17, 1881, the old factory building was sold at auction for \$1.50, to be removed from the premises within ten days, and a substantial brick building known as the "Sanford New Mill" was erected upon the site. It is now operated by the Med-



AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS, FRANKLIN



HAYWOOD MILL, FRANKLIN



way Manufacturing Company, whose principal offices are in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

As early as 1812 Col. Timothy Mann was engaged in the manufacture of satin, etc., in the Town of Walpole. He was succeeded in 1825 by his son-in-law, Truman Clarke, who added broadcloths, cassimeres, etc., to the line of goods and carried on a successful business for several years. Upon retiring from business he leased the factory to Whitehouse & Company, who went out of business a little later.

The Neponset Cotton Manufacturing Company of Canton was organized in 1824. The large stone mill was completed and equipped in 1825, but it soon afterward passed into the hands of Holbrook, Dexter and Hill, who converted it into a woolen factory. They failed in 1828 and the building stood idle for about two years, when it was sold to a new company—the Neponset Manufacturing Company—for about one-third of its original cost. It is now operated under the name of the Neponset Woolen Mills, under the management of Joseph Brooke.

About 1816 Robert Sugden, an Englishman, leased the old Thayer mill in Braintree and commenced the manufacture of woolen goods. He was succeeded by Alva Morrison in 1831. Mr. Morrison afterward purchased the property and carried on a successful business until his death, when his sons continued it for a number of years.

When John Bowditch came to Braintree he established a fulling mill on the Monaticquot River. He married a daughter of John French and the mill remained in the hands of the Bowditch family for more than one hundred years. It was sold in 1796 and the new owners converted it into a grist mill. About 1823 it was purchased by a company which manufactured cotton gins for a few years, when the Boston Flax Company purchased the property. This company employed about six hundred people in the manufacture of twine and linen goods until about 1880, when the machinery was removed to Ludlow, Massachusetts, and the buildings since then have been occupied by the Jenkins Manufacturing Company, which makes shoe laces and other cotton small wares.

Simeon Presbrey began making cotton thread in Canton in 1821. A little later he enlarged his mill and added the manufacture of twines. After several changes in proprietorship, the mill became the property of G. H. Mansfield & Company in July, 1866, under which name it is still running. A new factory building was erected a few years ago, and the firm now manufactures twines, violin strings, drum snares, etc. It is claimed that the finest silk fishing lines in the world are turned out by this company.

Cotton and woolen mills were established in Foxboro, Bellingham and some of the other towns of the county before the middle of the Nineteenth Century, but little of their history can now be learned. In 1915, according to the report of the Bureau of Statistics, the manufactories of this class in Norfolk County were: Bellingham—Charles River Woolen Company and Taft Woolen Company; Braintree—Jenkins Manufacturing Company; Brookline—Jersey Cloth Mills; Canton—Canton Manufacturing Company, Springdale Finishing Company, Draper Brothers Company, Knitted Padding Company, Neponset Woolen Mills and Springdale Fibre Company; Dedham—Cochrane Manufacturing Company, which makes carpets and rugs, Hodges Finishing Company and Jacob Lorio; Foxboro—Beaumont Brothers' shoddy mills; Franklin—Franklin Rug

Company, Clark-Cutler-McDermott Company, Franklin Mills (Unionville), Charles River Woolen Company, Mendon Woolen Mills, Norfolk Woolen Company, American Woolen Company, Franklin Yarn Company, H. T. Hayward and the Singleton Worsted Company; Medway—Medway Manufacturing Company; Millis—American Felt Company of Rockville; Norfolk—American Felt Company of City Mills, City Mills Woolen Company and Norfolk Woolen Company; Norwood—The Holliston Mills, which make a specialty of dyeing and finishing textiles; Plainville—Lewis P. Beaumont's shoddy mills; Quincy—Eastern Rug Company; Sharon—Seamans & Cobb Thread Mills; Stoughton—Stoughton Mills; Walpole—J. & S. Allen, cordage and twines, and the S. Gray Company, dyers and finishers; Wellesley—R. T. Sullivan & Company's shoddy mills; Weymouth—Waterproof Canvas Supply Company, awnings, tents and sails.

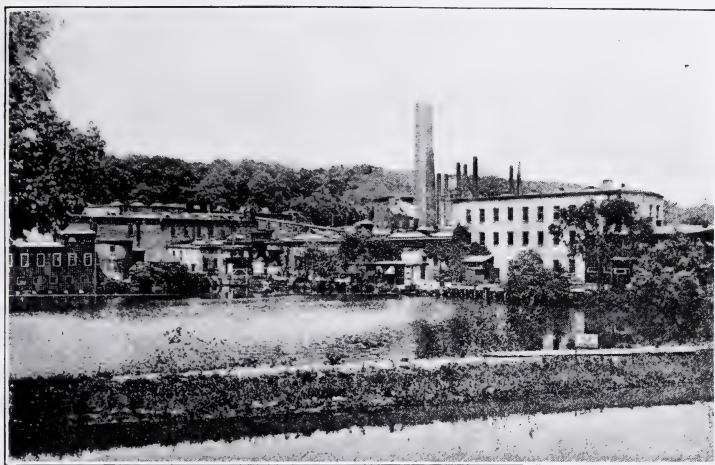
In the manufacture of hosiery and knit goods, Needham excels all the other towns of the county, having eleven establishments, in three of which the goods are produced by hand and are of superior quality. Knit goods are also produced in Canton, Dedham, Stoughton and Wellesley. The Springdale Finishing Company of Canton claims to be the largest manufacturers of khaki cloth in the United States, if not in the world.

#### PAPER AND WOOD PULP

On September 13, 1728, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an act "to encourage the manufacture of paper in New England," and a franchise was granted to Daniel Henchman, Gillam Phillips, Benjamin Faneuil, Thomas Hancock and Henry Dering, giving them a monopoly of the business for ten years, provided that within fifteen months they made forty reams of brown paper and sixty reams of printing paper. The mill erected by the holders of this franchise was on the Neponset River in the Town of Milton, and was the first paper mill built in New England. The first paper was made under the direction of Henry Woodman, an experienced workman who had learned the trade in England.

John M. and Lyman Hollingsworth began the manufacture of paper in Braintree about 1832. It was at their mill that the process of making manila paper from old rope was discovered and the first paper of that kind ever made in the United States was produced at this mill. When the founders of this industry removed from the town the business was taken charge of by Ellis A. Hollingsworth and soon afterward the firm of Hollingsworth & Whitney was formed. In 1882 a stock company was organized and a new mill built, but it does not appear in the late reports of the Bureau of Statistics.

In 1835 Silas Smith and others formed the Neponset Paper Mill Company and purchased the plant of the Neponset Manufacturing Company in Walpole. Francis W. Bird became the possessor of this property in the fall of 1838. Mr. Bird took his son into partnership and operated not only the above mentioned mill, but also what was known as "Bird's Lower Mill," which had been built by his father, George Bird, in 1818. In 1882 the lower mill was sold to Hollingsworth & Vose, under which name it is still running. F. W. Bird & Son now operate paper and wood pulp plants in Norwood and Walpole; J. F. Wall & Son



HOLLINGSWORTH & VOSE PAPER MILLS, EAST WALPOLE



OFFICES AND MILL OF F. W. BIRD & SON, EAST WALPOLE



are proprietors of the Highland Lake Mill in Norfolk, and the American Glue Company of Walpole manufacture sand paper and emery cloth.

Barber's Historical Collections, published in 1848, give a list of thirteen paper mills in Norfolk County, viz: two in Braintree, three in Dedham, six in Needham and two in Walpole. One of the mills in Dedham made a specialty of marble and fancy paper.

#### STRAW GOODS

The introduction of braided straw bonnets into the United States is due to the ingenuity of Miss Betsey Metcalf, daughter of Joel Metcalf of Wrentham. In 1798 Miss Metcalf was employed in the millinery store of Mrs. Naomi Whipple in Wrentham, where she saw her first straw bonnet, recently brought from New York. Together she and Mrs. Whipple unbraided a piece of the work and learned how it was made. Then they procured some straw, imitated the braiding, and made a bonnet. The demand for braided straw bonnets increased and they taught others to do the work, the straw braids being taken by the merchants in exchange for goods. Fisher & Day of Wrentham were the pioneers in the industry. They were soon followed by Asa and Davis Thayer of Franklin, and a little later Mason & Ellis of Medfield engaged in the business. Amariah Hall of Wrentham began the manufacture of straw bonnets about 1802 and quickly became the leading producer of this line of goods. He was familiarly known as "Bonnet Hall," on account of his success.

In 1856 Walter Janes, who had commenced making straw bonnets about five years before, formed a partnership with Daniel D. Curtis and employed a number of women and girls at their factory in Medfield. On October 3, 1876, this factory was burned, but was immediately rebuilt and in 1877 Edwin V. Mitchell came into the firm. In 1901 the firm took the name of Edwin V. Mitchell & Company, under which it is still in operation, manufacturing a full line of straw hats for both men and women. E. V. Mitchell died in the spring of 1917.

In 1915 there were three straw hat factories in Foxboro, operated by Caton Brothers, John Castillo & Company and Inman & Kimball. Caton Brothers also manufacture felt hats. E. A. Staples & Company represented the straw industry in Franklin, Edwin V. Mitchell & Company in Medfield, Hirsh & Guinzburg in Medway, and the Wrentham Hat Company in Wrentham.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The early manufacture of boots, shoes and other lines of small wares made necessary packing cases, and box factories were called into existence. One of the oldest establishments of this class is that of R. Loud & Company of Weymouth, which dates its beginning from 1850, when Mr. Loud converted his grist mill into a box factory. Five years later E. & C. Sherman began making boxes and carried on the business for several years, when they turned their attention exclusively to the manufacture of paper boxes. In 1915 there were seven factories making wooden packing cases, to wit: A. B. Holden, Caryville; Virgil S. Pond, Foxboro; O. F. Metcalf & Sons, Franklin; Medway Box Company; Ralph O.

Brown, Sharon; R. Loud & Sons, South Weymouth; and William D. Smith, Wrentham. Plain and fancy paper boxes were then made by the Medway Box Company; Edward E. Dailey, Needham Heights; M. B. Claff, Randolph; F. W. Bird & Son, East Walpole; A. O. Crawford, Elon Sherman's Sons and Weymouth Paper Box Company, Weymouth.

About the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, Jonas Welch bought the grist mill of William Allen in Braintree and began the manufacture of chocolate. His goods proved to be the best in the market and Welch's chocolate became known all over the country. The chocolate industry in Norfolk County is now represented by the well known firm of Walter Baker & Company, whose headquarters are in Boston, but have a mill in the Town of Milton.

In April, 1804, Samuel Morrill was born in the Town of Salisbury. Upon arriving at his majority he removed to Norwood and started making printers' ink in a small wooden building with only one kettle and a limited process of making lamp-black. He had previously learned the trade of printer and knew the demand for ink of good quality. His two sons, George H. and Samuel S. Morrill, were taken into partnership and in 1869 the firm name was changed to George H. Morrill & Company. This firm is now known as the George H. Morrill Company and is one of the largest producers of printers' ink in the country.

In 1866 Alexander W. Robertson started a pottery at Chelsea, and about two years later his brother, Hugh C. Robertson, became his partner. In 1872 their father came from Scotland and joined them, the concern then taking the name of James Robertson & Sons. In 1896 a new pottery was built at Dedham and the old one was abandoned. The Dedham pottery took the grand prize at St. Louis in 1904 in art pottery. In 1912 the business was incorporated as the Dedham Pottery Company, with H. E. Weatherby, president, and W. A. Robertson, manager.

The Town of Plainville has four jewelry manufacturing establishments—Thompson & Remington, who do a reducing and refining business, Scofield, Melcher & Scofield, Whiting, Davis & Company, and the Plainville Stock Company.

The only two hammock factories in Massachusetts are located in Norfolk County: James Brayshaw of North Weymouth, and T. B. Thomas & Company of Quincy. Weymouth also boasts one of the three concerns manufacturing fireworks—Edmund S. Hunt & Sons Company. The Fore River Shipbuilding Company of Quincy is one of the important manufacturing concerns of the county, the plant being greatly enlarged in 1917.

When it is realized that there are over four hundred manufacturing plants in the county, it can be understood how impracticable it would be to attempt a full history of each one in a work of this nature. Some idea of the importance of the manufacturing industries of the county may be gained from the following table, which has been compiled from the 1915 report of the State Bureau of Statistics, a few of the establishments not making returns of the amount of capital invested and the number of employees:

Towns	No. of Estab.	Capital	No. of Emp'ees	Paid in Wages
Avon .....	1			
Bellingham .....	4			
Braintree .....	18	\$ 3,299,000	1,900	\$ 1,105,000
Brookline .....	16	233,500	126	98,000
Canton .....	13	3,176,000	890	521,000
Cohasset .....	3			
Dedham .....	13	613,900	180	93,200
Dover .....	1			
Foxboro .....	13	746,700	317	177,600
Franklin .....	24	2,469,000	1,100	627,300
Holbrook .....	1			
Medfield .....	2			
Medway .....	9	389,300	435	248,300
Millis .....	4			
Milton .....	4	82,700	51	24,900
Needham .....	19	1,666,500	690	277,500
Norfolk .....	3			
Norwood .....	22	8,549,000	2,245	1,545,500
Plainville .....	6	986,400	315	216,200
Quincy .....	157	19,868,200	6,475	5,233,000
Randolph .....	9	723,700	380	277,600
Sharon .....	3			
Stoughton .....	19	2,469,000	1,200	681,500
Walpole .....	13	5,325,400	1,283	859,000
Wellesley .....	6	712,600	228	112,800
Weymouth .....	30	5,774,000	1,824	1,087,000
Wrentham .....	3			
Total .....	416	\$57,084,900	19,639	\$13,185,400

## CHAPTER XLII

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

TASK OF THE PIONEERS—MOTHER BROOK—EARLY HIGHWAYS—TURNPIKES—STAGE LINES—THE RAILROAD ERA—THE GRANITE RAILWAY—FIRST RAILROAD CHARTERS—THE DEDHAM BRANCH—OLD COLONY RAILROAD—NORFOLK COUNTY RAILROAD—OTHER RAILROADS—ELECTRIC RAILWAY LINES—FORE RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

When the first white men settled in Norfolk County they found the country "fresh from the hands of Nature." Indian trails, dim and indistinct in places, were the only roads, the streams were without bridges and fordable only at certain places. To develop this wild region and render it habitable was the task of the Puritan pioneers. Those who live in the present day, in the full enjoyment of the fruits of three centuries of development, can scarcely realize the magnitude of that task.

#### MOTHER BROOK

One of the first necessities of the early settlers was some means of grinding their corn into meal. Water power was depended upon to run the mill, but in the neighborhood of Dedham no suitable water power could be found. Some one (it would be interesting to know who) suggested that East Brook, which flowed into the Neponset River, had sufficient fall to run a mill if the volume of water could be increased. To furnish the necessary volume of water it was proposed to cut an artificial canal from the Charles River to the headwaters of East Brook, a distance of about three-fourths of a mile. How long the subject was discussed by the citizens is not known, but it came before a town meeting in Dedham on March 25, 1639, when the following action was taken:

"Ordered y<sup>t</sup> a Ditch shalbe made at a Comon Charge through purchased medowe unto ye East brooke y<sup>t</sup> may both be a pticon fence in ye same: as also may serve for a Course unto a water mill: yf it shalbe fownd fitting to set a mill upon ye sayd brooke by ye Judgem<sup>t</sup> of a workeman for y<sup>t</sup> purpose."

The ditch was completed some time the following year. It appears that the project was undertaken without the authority of the General Court, and it is quite probable that the work of excavation was done by the citizens as volunteers. This was doubtless the first artificial canal in the United States. Erastus Worthington, in speaking of this canal in 1884, said: "The turning of the Waters of Charles River by means of the artificial channel, and uniting them with the headwaters of East Brook in 1640, has proved to be most beneficial and permanent in its consequences through all the subsequent history of the town. Until the beginning of the present century it furnished saw mills and grist mills, then of

the highest importance, with power, and from 1807 down to the present time there have been erected upon it cotton and woolen mills, which have been prosperous and have contributed to the substantial growth of the town."

According to Mann's *Annals of Dedham* (p. 37), on May 11, 1789, "a committee chosen to ascertain the town's claim to Mother Brook stream and land adjoining, formerly granted to Nathaniel Whiting and James Draper, reported that Messrs. Joseph Whiting, Jr., Paul, Moses and Aaron Whiting have consented to give the town six pounds for an acquittance of the town's claim to said stream, and advise a compliance with these terms." The report of the committee was accepted and the town treasurer was instructed to give a quit claim deed in behalf of the town upon receipt of the money. The canal is also known as Mill Creek.

#### EARLY HIGHWAYS

For better protection against Indian depredations, the first settlers built their habitations near to each other, hence the greatest need of highways was for roads from one settlement to another. In looking over the early records of the various towns, one will notice frequent petitions for the opening of highways of this class. Within a few years after it was first settled, Boston became the commercial center of Massachusetts and the desire of the people was for roads that would give them access to the metropolis.

One of the first roads in what is now Norfolk County grew out of the act of the General Court in 1634, which "gave Boston enlargement at Mount Wollaston." Before the close of that year Israel Stoughton built his mill on the Neponset River, at the foot of Milton Hill, on the Dorchester side of the stream, four miles from the nearest settlement on the north, while on the south the nearest inhabitants were those at Wessagusset. Naturally the scattering settlements wanted a road to the mill. The opening of this road consisted merely of the removal of the trees and other obstructions as might impede the passage of a cart, the matter of grading being left for future consideration. In 1635 the General Court authorized John Holland to "keep a ferry across the Neponset, near Stoughton's mill, and to charge each passenger four pence, except in cases where there were more than one passenger, in which event each was to be charged three pence."

In November, 1639, the coast road was ordered laid out by the General Court, but the order was not executed until two years later. This road passed through Braintree, with branches to Squantum Head and Hough's Neck. It remained the principal thoroughfare from that town to Boston until the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. In 1648 the road from Weymouth to Dorchester was formally laid out, passing by the Braintree meeting house and Wright's mill. This road was afterward extended to Hingham, and ultimately to Plymouth.

In April, 1660, two highways were ordered to be laid out through the new grant of land to the Medway proprietors—"one at a distance of half a mile north of the Charles River from east to west, and the other through the midst of the tract from the way that runs west to a line to the north end of the same."

Shortly after the plantation at Wollomonopoag (now Wrentham) was established in 1663, a highway from that plantation to Dedham was confirmed by the

Dedham selectmen, the road to run "at ye east ende of their lotts." Part of this road now forms South street in the Town of Wrentham. After the Indian deed to Needham and Dedham Island was obtained by the settlers in 1680, a road was opened from Dedham to the new purchase and a bridge was built across the Charles River at the place known as "The Canoes." In 1684 the road was extended to Needham Great Plain, where it intersected the road from Boston to Natick.

A road from Medfield to Wrentham was opened in 1684. It crossed the Charles River near the present village of Rockville, in the Town of Millis. From Medfield it was extended westward to Worcester, and from Wrentham eastward to Taunton, in time becoming one of the main thoroughfares of the Commonwealth. Where the Village of Franklin is now situated, this road was crossed by one running from Dedham to Woonsocket, Rhode Island. At Dedham it connected with the road leading to Boston.

Before the middle of the Eighteenth Century a road was opened from Boston to Providence. It passed through the towns of Dedham, Norwood, Walpole, Foxboro and Wrentham, and afterward became a post road, over which mail riders passed each way three times a week. It was a link in the great mail route that ran from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Williamsburg, Virginia, though when that route was first established in 1693, it ran west of Providence, via Saybrook, Connecticut. It continued as mail route until after the advent of the railroad, and it is said that one express rider carried President Jackson's message from Boston to Providence in two and three-quarter hours. Most of the through roads were formed by building short stretches of highway here and there to connect local roads.

During the first century the question of keeping the roads in repair was one that was difficult of solution. In fact, it is doubtful whether any systematic repairs were made. About the middle of the Eighteenth Century, Weymouth and Roxbury adopted the system of levying a tax for the repair and improvement of the highways. These two towns were probably the first in Massachusetts to apply such a system.

#### TURNPIKES

About the beginning of the Nineteenth Century a demand arose for better roads. To meet this demand turnpike companies were chartered by the General Court, with authority to build roads and charge toll for their use by travelers. The Boston & Hartford Turnpike Company was one of the first to receive a charter and the road was completed in 1806. From Boston it ran in a south-westerly direction, entering Worcester County not far from the Town of Milford.

The Weymouth & Braintree Turnpike Company was chartered on March 4, 1803, and the road was opened to travel in 1805. It entered Weymouth at Weymouth Landing and followed a southeasterly course to Hingham, on the line from Boston to Plymouth. For nearly fifty years toll was collected on this road, but on July 15, 1852, it was made a public highway. Washington street in Weymouth is a part of this old turnpike.

Another turnpike opened about the same time, was the Norfolk & Bristol, which passed through Dedham. Erastus Worthington, writing of this turnpike

in 1827, said: "The steamboats from New York land their passengers at Providence, and in a few hours afterwards six or seven stages full may be frequently seen a mile south of the village descending into it, bringing sometimes the dust with them which they raise. Every other day the mail arrives on its way to Washington City."

On February 29, 1804, the New Bedford Turnpike Company obtained a charter to build and operate a turnpike from the Weymouth & Braintree pike, about a mile from Weymouth Landing, running thence southward to the Abington line, on the route from Boston to New Bedford. Before many years the northern part of the road was relinquished by the company, because the expense of keeping it up was greater than the revenue derived from it, and it now forms part of Main street in Weymouth.

The Neponset Turnpike ran from Quincy to the Neponset River near the old site of Israel Stoughton's mill and was opened early in the century. James Thayer began running a "baggage-wagon" from Quincy to Boston upon the completion of this pike, sometimes carrying passengers who were not too fastidious to put up with the accommodations.

In 1808 the Quincy & Hingham Bridge and Turnpike Company was incorporated. Bridges were built over the Fore and Back rivers in Weymouth and the company charged vessels tolls for using the draws, as well as travelers who passed over the road. The bridge tolls were the source of much ill feeling and contention and the road was finally thrown upon the towns as a public highway in September, 1862. There were other turnpike companies, but the above were the principal lines in the county.

#### STAGE LINES

Before railroads were built, stage coaches were the only public means of transportation between Boston and the interior towns. The first stage line between Boston and Providence was established in 1767. At Providence it connected with another stage line, running to New York. About 1785 Hazard started his line of mail coaches from Boston to Bristol Ferry, and later to New Haven, where the mail coach connected with a steamer for New York. With the building of the turnpikes the coaching business greatly increased, and in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century a number of lines were in operation. In the Dedham Gazette of February 11, 1814, appears the following advertisement:

"Martin Marsh respectfully informs the public that he has commenced running a Stage from Dedham to Boston. The stage will start every day, Sunday excepted, from his tavern adjoining the Court House in Dedham, at 7 o'clock in the morning in summer, and at half past eight in the winter season, and puts up at Mr. Davenport's tavern, Elm Street, formerly Wing's Lane, Boston. Seats may be taken at Mr. Davenport's, Elm St., or at Mr. Boynton's Sign of the Lamb, Newbury St., Boston, and at Marsh's Tavern, Dedham. Fare each way 62½ cents."

Two lines of stages—the Peoples' and the Citizens'—were running between Boston and Providence at the time Mr. Marsh started his local stage, and there was much rivalry between the two companies as to which could make the trip in the shortest time. Ordinarily, the coaches made the run in about four and

a half hours. Then the Citizens' Company had built some light coaches and shortened the time about one hour. At one time this company owned about three hundred horses, and a relay of fresh horses was always in waiting at the stopping places. In Dedham, the Peoples' stages started from the Phoenix Hotel, and the Citizens' from the Norfolk House. The stables of the former adjoined the hotel and the company lost about sixty horses by the burning of the Phoenix Hotel and stables on October 30, 1832. During the palmy days of the stage coaching era as many as forty stages passed over the road in a single day in the busy season.

In 1815 a line of stages began running between Boston and Cohasset, leaving Dock Square in Boston on Monday, Thursday and Saturday of each week, and returning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. About the same time Jedediah Little & Company started the Boston & Scituate "Accommodation Stage," which made three trips each way weekly. It carried the mail to Marshfield, Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate.

Simon Gillett purchased the "route and good will" of James Thayer's baggage wagon in 1823, and put on a regular passenger coach called the "John Hancock," which made four trips weekly between Quincy and Boston. The coach left Quincy early in the morning, stopped at Barnard's, Elm Street, Boston, and started upon the return trip about four o'clock in the afternoon.

The south shore towns—Weymouth, Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate and Plymouth—never depended as much upon stage coaches for communication with Boston as did the towns farther from the coast. About 1821 Capt. George Beal began making regular trips between Hingham and Boston with the packet "Lafayette," charging a fare each way of thirty-seven and a half cents. A few years later he built a better boat—the "General Lincoln"—and stopped at all the "way points" between Scituate and Boston. Other boats came into use, carrying both passengers and freight, which rendered stage coaching in this part of Norfolk County an unprofitable venture.

#### THE RAILROAD ERA

In January, 1826, a petition signed by Gridley Bryant, Amos Lawrence, Thomas H. Perkins, David Moody, William Sullivan and Solomon Willard, was presented to the Legislature, asking for a charter to build a railroad from the Quincy stone quarries to the Neponset River. All the petitioners were residents of Boston except Mr. Willard, who lived in Quincy. On January 25, 1826, a Quincy town meeting appointed a committee of fifteen to confer with the legislative committee that had the bill in charge, with the result that an act of incorporation was passed and approved by the governor. The "Granite Railway Company" was then organized with Thomas H. Perkins as president.

The idea of building the road originated with Gridley Bryant, who had a contract of furnishing the stone for the Bunker Hill Monument, and hit on this plan of getting the stone to Boston. Work was commenced on the road in April, 1826, and on the 7th of October the first train of cars passed over the entire length of the track, a distance of about four miles. In building the road Mr. Bryant used stone sleepers, placed about six or eight feet apart, upon which were set timbers 6 by 12 inches, placed on edge, and on the top of the wooden

rails were fastened iron strips four inches wide and a half-inch thick. Years afterward, when the road passed into the hands of the Old Colony Railroad Company, the stone sleepers were replaced by wooden ties and the rails by iron ones. It has been claimed that this was the first railroad ever built in the United States under a charter granted by a state legislature.

In the early years of the Nineteenth Century canals were built from Worcester to Providence and from Northampton to New Haven. These canals connected with Long Island Sound and afforded easy means of transportation to New York. Surveys were made for a canal from Boston to the Hudson River, but before it could be built attention was diverted to the railroad as the best means of carrying freight and passengers. In 1827 the Legislature appointed a board of commissioners "to cause surveys to be made of the most practicable routes for a railroad from Boston to the Hudson River, at or near Albany." Four years later charters were granted to three railroad companies—the Boston & Lowell, the Boston & Providence, and the Boston & Worcester.

The last named road was completed to Wellesley in 1834 and the steam engine as a motive power for moving cars was for the first time introduced in New England. Trains began running on the Boston & Providence in June of the same year. In July, 1835, the first train ran from Boston to Worcester. This road is now a part of the Boston & Albany.

#### THE DEDHAM BRANCH

When the Boston & Providence Railroad was nearing completion, a meeting was held in Dedham to consider the question of building a branch to that town. A charter was obtained through an act of the Legislature, and the first train ran from Boston to Dedham on December 8, 1834. The coaches used on this branch road were fashioned like the old stage coaches, wide enough to accommodate four persons on a seat. They were at first drawn to and from Boston by horses, but after about a year the horses were used only as far as Readville, where the coaches were attached to the steam trains from Providence. On January 30, 1837, the station building at Dedham was burned, with a locomotive and several cars. Horses then again came into use for the full distance between Dedham and Boston, a change of horses being made at "Toll Gate" (now Forest Hills). In 1889 the Boston & Providence passed under the management of the Old Colony Railroad, and in July, 1893, it became a part of the New York, New Haven & Hartford system.

#### OLD COLONY RAILROAD

The Old Colony Railroad Company was chartered in 1844 and built its first line from Boston to Abington, the line passing through Braintree and South Weymouth. The road was opened for travel on November 10, 1845. Two years later a branch was built from Dorchester to Milton, with stations at Mattapan and East Milton. A little later another branch was built from this line to East Milton and West Quincy.

On March 26, 1846, the South Shore Railroad Company received a charter and built a line of road through the northern part of Weymouth, the charter

authorizing the road to extend from Boston to Plymouth. It was opened for business as far as Hingham on January 1, 1849. At first it connected with the Old Colony line at Braintree and from that point used the tracks of the Old Colony to Boston. In May, 1877, this road became a part of the Old Colony system, which in turn passed into the hands of the New York, New Haven & Hartford in July, 1893.

#### NORFOLK COUNTY RAILROAD

In 1847 the Norfolk County Railroad Company was incorporated to build a road from Dedham to Blackstone, a distance of twenty-six miles. It was completed in two years and trains began running in the spring of 1849. To connect with this road, the Boston & Providence constructed a new branch through West Roxbury to Dedham. In the meantime another railroad from Boston to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, had been projected. It was known as the "Air Line" and was built through Needham and Dover. A few years after it was completed the Norfolk County Railroad passed into the hands of other corporations and a new road constructed through Dorchester connected with it about a mile and a half south of Dedham. The effect of this change was to leave Dedham without any direct railway connection with the southerly and westerly portions of the county.

#### OTHER RAILROADS

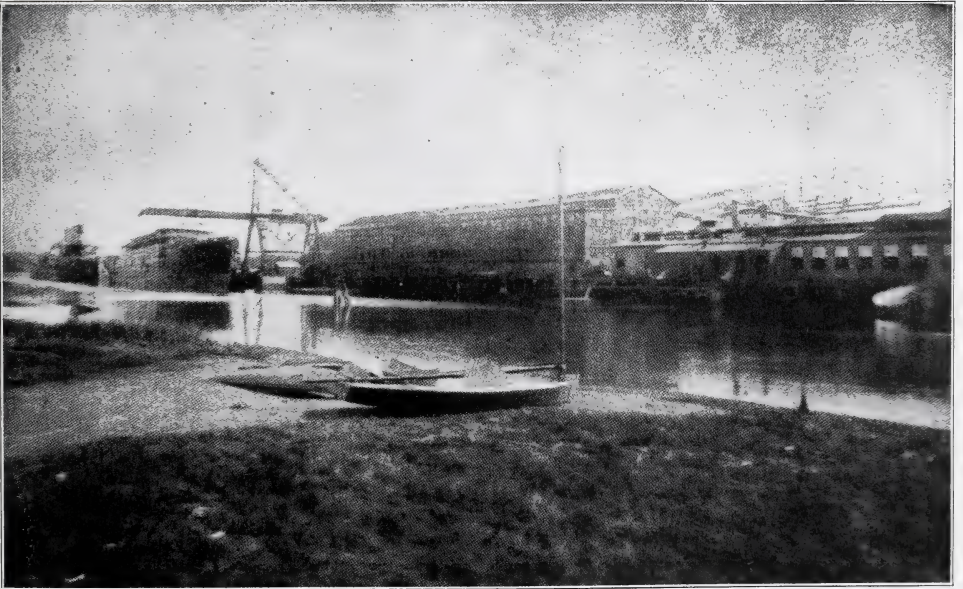
A railroad called the "Charles River Railroad" was projected in the latter '40s and a few miles were constructed. In 1855 it was merged with the New York & Boston Railroad. Ten years later it became a part of the Boston, Hartford & Erie, and when that company failed it was reorganized as the New York & New England Railroad. On August 1, 1861, the first train ran from Boston to Medfield on the Charles River Branch of this system.

In the spring of 1870 trains commenced running on the Framingham & Mansfield Railroad, which passes through Medfield, Walpole and Foxboro, and in 1877 the Rhode Island & Massachusetts Railroad was completed, connecting Franklin and Providence via Valley Falls, and in 1883 the Milford & Franklin Railroad began running regular trains. These roads are now all branches of the New York, New Haven & Hartford.

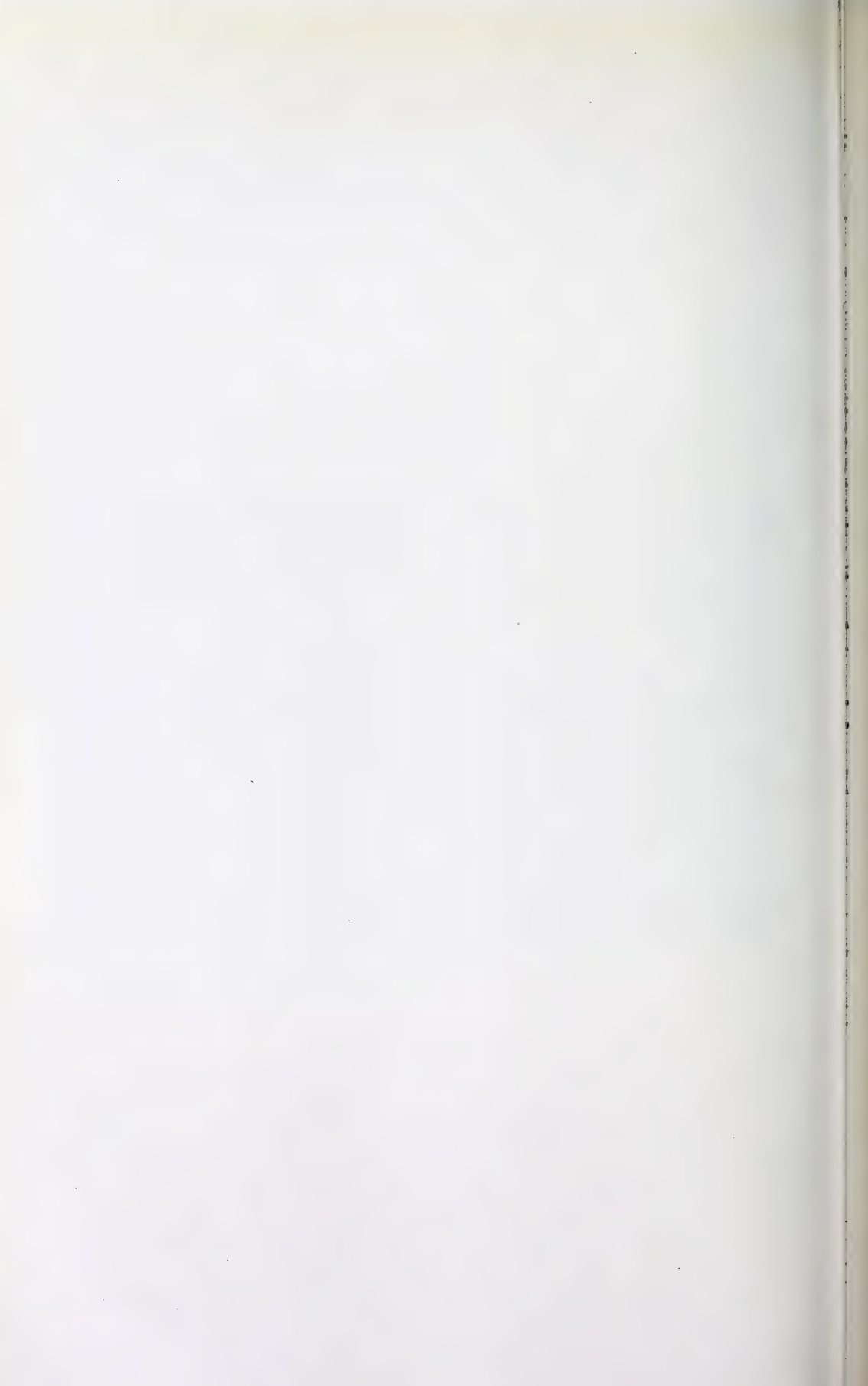
#### ELECTRIC RAILWAY LINES

With the development of electricity as a motive power in the latter part of the last century, it came into use to operate short lines of railway and street car systems in cities. One of the first railways of this class in Norfolk County was the Needham Street Railway, a franchise for which was granted by the selectmen of that town in the spring of 1893. The franchise provided for a line from the Wellesley boundary to the Dedham line over Great Plain avenue and Webster street, with a branch on Highland avenue from the Needham postoffice to the Newton line. The franchise was accepted by the directors of the company on April 8, 1893.

The Newton & Boston Street Railway Company received its franchise to



FORE RIVER SHIP BUILDING COMPANY, QUINCY



operate lines in Norfolk County on February 2, 1897, and on November 1, 1897, the Natick & Cochituate Street Railway Company was granted the right to extend its line into Wellesley and Needham. The first car on this line from Wellesley to Needham was run on April 9, 1899, leaving the former town at one o'clock P. M.

A franchise was granted to the Norfolk & Western Street Railway Company on September 1, 1899, but the name was afterward changed to the Medfield & Medway Street Railway Company. This company operates the line from Dedham to Franklin, passing through Westwood, Medfield, Millis and Medway.

As the advantages of electric lines were made manifest, other roads were constructed, among them the Norfolk & Bristol, which runs from Norwood to Mansfield through Walpole and Foxboro; the Norwood, Canton & Sharon; the Milford, Wrentham & Attleboro, and a few others. Since the beginning of the present century the Old Colony Street Railway Company has gradually extended its lines into the county, until Dedham, Westwood, Milton, Quincy, Braintree, Weymouth, Cohasset, Randolph, Holbrook, Avon, Norwood, Walpole and Needham are all connected with Boston by electric lines.

#### FORE RIVER IMPROVEMENT

For several years the great shipbuilding company located on the Weymouth Fore River has felt the need of widening and deepening the main channel of the stream. In the early part of 1917 Congress made an appropriation of \$200,000 for this purpose. To this amount the State of Massachusetts added \$75,000, the City of Quincy, \$10,000, and the shipbuilding company, \$15,000. The Boston Herald of May 5, 1917, says: "With a fund of \$300,000 available, work will soon be commenced in widening and deepening the channel of Weymouth Fore River at Quincy. The channel will be made eighteen to twenty-four feet deep at mean low tide and 300 feet in width, the widening to commence inside Peddock's Island and follow the channel to the plant of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company. . . . The shipbuilding company has been unable to take contracts for the larger class of ships on account of the narrowness and shallowness of the channel, but when the proposed improvements are completed ships of any size may pass through Quincy Point bridge without difficulty."

## CHAPTER XLIII

### THE BENCH AND BAR

COLONIAL LAWS—BODY OF LIBERTIES—UNDER THE CONSTITUTION—NORFOLK COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—CIRCUIT COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—COURT OF SESSIONS—COURT OF PROBATE—DISTRICT COURTS—DISTRICT JUSTICES—THE BAR—SKETCHES OF EARLY LAWYERS—BAR ASSOCIATION.

#### COLONIAL LAWS

Although there were no professional lawyers “of national reputation”—if indeed there were any at all—among the first settlers of Massachusetts, the people managed to make laws under which they succeeded reasonably well, such laws being executed by vote of the town meeting, or by officials chosen for the purpose. In 1635 four magistrates were deputed “to frame a body of laws, which shall bear a resemblance to a Magna Charta.” At the head of this commission was Nathaniel Ward of Ipswich, whom Bancroft declared to be “the most remarkable among all the early legislators of Massachusetts.” Nearly six years elapsed before the code—called the “Body of Liberties”—was completed. It went into effect in 1641, and with amendments and additions from time to time, as occasion required, the “Body of Liberties” remained the fundamental law of the colony until the Revolution.

The principal features of this early code were as follows: 1. All general officers to be elected annually by the people. 2. The freemen in the several towns to choose deputies from among themselves, or elsewhere as they might judge fittest, to serve for one year in the General Court. 3. Life, liberty, honor and property to be at all times under the protection of law. 4. Every citizen was guaranteed equal justice under all circumstances. 5. Refuge was granted to shipwrecked mariners and their goods were protected. 6. Slavery was prohibited, except in case of “lawful captives taken in just war, and such strangers as are willing to sell themselves or are sold to us.” 7. Wife-whipping was forbidden under severe penalties. 8. The death penalty was to be inflicted only in cases of murder, adultery, rape, man-stealing, and knowingly bearing false witness to deprive any one of life.

#### UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

On June 15, 1780, the constitution of the State of Massachusetts was ratified by the people and became effective. Under its provisions the Legislature enacted laws providing for the establishment of courts. By the act of July 3, 1782, the Supreme Judicial Court was established as the only one of general common

law jurisdiction in the Commonwealth. On the same date an act was approved authorizing a Court of Common Pleas in each county in the state. This court was to consist of "four substantial, discreet and learned persons," to be appointed by the governor, and was to have jurisdiction in civil cases where the value of the property involved did not exceed a certain amount. Still another court established on July 3, 1782, was the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to be held in each county of the state by the justices of the peace of such county. It was "empowered to hear and determine all matters relative to the conservation of the peace and the punishment of such offences as are cognizable by them at Common Law." This court also had jurisdiction in the matter of apportioning taxes, laying out highways, erecting public buildings for the county, etc. A Probate Court was established in each county of the state by the Legislature in 1784. Such were the courts in existence when Norfolk County was organized in June, 1793.

#### NORFOLK COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

On July 2, 1793, the governor appointed as justices of the Court of Common Pleas for Norfolk County Samuel Niles, of Braintree; Richard Cranch, of Quincy; William Heath, of Roxbury; and Stephen Metcalf of Bellingham. Although the records do not show that any of these men declined to serve, such was evidently the case, as on September 3, 1793, Nathaniel Ames, of Dedham; John Read, of Roxbury; and Ebenezer Warren, of Foxboro, were appointed justices, and Edward H. Robbins, of Milton, and Solomon Lovell, of Weymouth, special justices.

The first session of the court was convened in the meeting house at Dedham, on Friday, September 24, 1793, with Stephen Metcalf, Ebenezer Warren and James Endicott as justices, and Nathaniel Ames as clerk. James Endicott was a Stoughton man and received his appointment on the day the session of the court was commenced. The first case committed to a jury in the Court of Common Pleas for Norfolk County was in April, 1794, at which term 166 cases were entered for trial.

Other justices of the Court of Common Pleas in Norfolk County, as it was originally established and before it was superseded by the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, were: Oliver Everett, of Dorchester, who was appointed in 1799 and died on December 19, 1802, when his brother, Moses Everett, was appointed to the vacancy; Horatio Townsend, of Medfield; Samuel Bass, of Randolph; Samuel Haven, of Dedham; David S. Greenough, of Roxbury; Thomas Williams, of Roxbury; and Thomas Greenleaf, of Quincy.

#### CIRCUIT COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

By the act of June 21, 1811, the Court of Common Pleas in each county was abolished and a Circuit Court of Common Pleas established in its place. The state was divided into six circuits, the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth constituting the "Southern Circuit." Under the provisions of the act, each Circuit Court was to consist of a chief justice and two associates. Thomas B. Adams, of Quincy, was appointed chief justice of the Southern Cir-

cuit, and Jairus Ware, of Wrentham, and Nahum Mitchell, of Bridgewater, associates. On February 15, 1821, the governor approved an act abolishing the Circuit Court of Common Pleas and establishing a Court of Common Pleas for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It existed until 1859, when it was superseded by the Superior Court, which was given jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases. While the Circuit Court of Common Pleas was in existence, the following Norfolk County men served on the bench, in addition to the first appointees above named: Samuel Bass, Ebenezer Warren, Joseph Heath, Samuel Swett and Ebenezer Seaver.

#### COURT OF SESSIONS

The Court of General Sessions of the Peace, usually referred to as the "Court of Sessions," of Norfolk County held its first session on the last Tuesday in September, 1793. John Jones, of Dover, signed the record as presiding justice, but that record does not show who the other justices were. By the act of February 27, 1787, six years before Norfolk County was organized, this court was given power over county affairs similar to that now exercised by the county commissioners.

On June 19, 1807, the structure of this court was changed so as to consist of a chief justice and four associates, to be appointed by the governor. Ebenezer Seaver, of Roxbury, was appointed chief justice; William Aspinwall, of Brookline; John Ellis, of Medway; Joseph Bemis, of Canton; and Samuel Day, of Wrentham, associates. Mr. Aspinwall resigned soon after his appointment and Nathaniel Ruggles was appointed to the vacancy. Exactly two years later, the powers and duties of the Court of Sessions were transferred to the Court of Common Pleas.

On June 25, 1811, a few days after the Circuit Court of Common Pleas was established, the Court of Sessions was revived by an act, Section 1 of which was as follows: "From and after the first day of September next an act passed June 19, 1809, is repealed and all acts before in force relative to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace are revived." Judges Seaver, Ellis, Bemis, Day and Ruggles were then reappointed.

Another change was made by the act of February 28, 1814, when the powers and duties of the Court of Sessions were transferred to the Circuit Court, except in the counties of Suffolk, Dukes and Nantucket. Section 4 of the act provided that: "The governor shall appoint two discreet persons, being freeholders, within each county, who shall be session justices of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas in their respective counties."

In accordance with this section, the governor on June 11, 1814, appointed as session justices in Norfolk County Ebenezer Warren, of Foxboro, and Samuel Bass, of Randolph. They were succeeded in 1816 by Samuel Swett, of Dedham, and Joseph Heath, of Roxbury. In 1819 Ebenezer Seaver, who had been chief justice of the Court of Sessions from its reestablishment in 1809, was appointed a session justice of the Circuit Court.

The Court of Sessions was again revived by the act of February 20, 1819, with a chief justice and two associate justices. On June 16, 1819, the governor appointed Jairus Ware, of Wrentham, chief justice, Ebenezer Warren and Samuel

Swett, associate justices. Two justices were added to the court by the act of February 26, 1822, and in April Daniel Adams, of Medfield, and Samuel P. Loud, of Dorchester, were appointed as the additional justices. Jairus Ware was elected clerk of the courts on September 1, 1826, and William Ellis was appointed, Daniel Adams being made chief justice. The Court of Sessions came to its final end by the passage of the act of February 26, 1828, which created the board of county commissioners to "have, exercise and perform, except so far as modified by the provisions of this act, all the powers, authorities and duties which before and until the passing of this act, the Courts of Sessions or Commissioners of Highways have by law exercised and performed."

#### COURT OF PROBATE

On July 2, 1793, William Heath, of Roxbury, who had served as major-general in the Continental army during the Revolution, was appointed judge of probate for Norfolk County, and also one of the justices of the Court of Common Pleas. He continued to serve until his death in 1814, when Edward H. Robbins, of Milton, was appointed. He also served until his death, which occurred on December 29, 1829, and on January 26, 1830, Sherman Leland, of Roxbury, was appointed as his successor. Judge Leland died on November 19, 1853, and was succeeded by his son, William S. Leland, who continued in office until the Probate Court was consolidated with the Court of Insolvency in 1858, when George White, of Quincy, was appointed. The Court of Insolvency was created in 1856 and Francis Hilliard, of Roxbury, was judge until the court was merged into the Probate Court two years later. The present judge of probate is James H. Flint.

#### DISTRICT COURTS

As the population of the state multiplied and the business of the courts correspondingly increased, it became apparent that the Superior Court needed some assistance in the transaction of that business. The Legislature then established District Courts in such counties as stood in greatest need of additional tribunals. The first District Court was established in Berkshire County. On April 30, 1872, the District Court of Eastern Norfolk was created, to be held in Quincy and to have jurisdiction over the towns of Braintree, Cohasset, Holbrook, Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth. In 1910 the Legislature authorized the erection of a courthouse for this district at Quincy.

The Southern Norfolk District Court was established by the act of April 30, 1891, to have jurisdiction over the towns of Avon, Canton, Sharon and Stoughton. The sessions of the court are held in Stoughton and Canton, but no courthouse has ever been erected in this district.

On May 27, 1898, the Northern Norfolk District Court was created, with jurisdiction over the towns of Dedham, Dover, Hyde Park, Medfield, Needham, Norwood and Westwood. Hyde Park has since been annexed to the City of Boston, otherwise the jurisdiction of the court remains the same. The sessions of this court are held in Dedham.

Another District Court, known as the Western Norfolk District, was estab-

lished by the act of June 3, 1898. It has jurisdiction over the towns of Bellingham, Foxboro, Franklin, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole and Wrentham. Sessions of this court are held in Franklin and Walpole.

#### DISTRICT JUSTICES

Under the provisions of the acts creating the several District Courts, each district has a justice and two special justices. At the beginning of the year 1917, the justices in Norfolk County were as follows: Eastern Norfolk—Albert E. Avery, justice; E. Granville Pratt and Louis A. Cook, special justices; Lawrence W. Lyons, clerk. Northern Norfolk—Emery Grover, justice; Harrison A. Plympton and James A. Halloran, special justices; Clifford B. Sanborn, clerk. Southern Norfolk—Oscar A. Marden, justice; Henry F. Buswell and Gerald A. Healy, special justices; Michael F. Ward, clerk. Western Norfolk—Orestes T. Doe, justice; Henry E. Ruggles and Elbridge J. Whitaker, special justices; Harry L. Howard, clerk.

#### THE BAR

Davis' History of the Bench and Bar of Massachusetts (vol. II., p. 52) says: "At the first meeting of the Norfolk bar, held September 28, 1797, only eight were present, and before the next meeting, held in 1802, only six more had become members. The list at the latter date included Fisher Ames, Samuel Haven, of Dedham; Horatio Townsend, of Medfield; Thomas Williams, of Roxbury; Edward Hutchinson Robbins, of Dorchester; Asaph Churchill, of Milton; William P. Whitney, Henry M. Lisle, Jairus Ware, John Shirley Williams, James Richardson and Gideon L. Thayer."

A sketch of Fisher Ames, who was no doubt the leading member of the bar at that time, appears in another chapter of this work. Samuel Haven was a son of Rev. Jason Haven and was born in Dedham on April 5, 1771. He graduated at Harvard in 1789, studied law with Fisher Ames and with his cousin, Samuel Dexter, in Boston, and was admitted to the bar in Suffolk County. When the County of Norfolk was established in 1793 he was appointed register of probate, and in 1802 he was appointed a special justice of the Court of Common Pleas, serving until the court was abolished in 1811. In 1833 he removed to Roxbury and died there in 1847.

Asaph Churchill was born in Middleboro on May 5, 1765, and graduated at Harvard in 1789. He studied law with John Davis in Boston and was admitted to the bar the year Norfolk County was organized. A little later he removed to Milton. From 1810 to 1812 he was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Mr. Churchill was recognized as one of the leading attorneys of Norfolk County and had a large number of clients. He died at his home in Milton on June 30, 1841. Two of his sons—Asaph and Joseph McKean—both studied law, were admitted to the bar and became prominent in political affairs. The former was born on April 20, 1814; graduated at Harvard in 1831; was admitted to the bar before he was twenty-one years of age; was state senator from Norfolk County in 1857; was a director of the Dorchester and Milton Bank (later the Blue Hill Bank) for more than twenty-five years, part of which time

he was president of the institution; and was president of the Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Joseph McKean Churchill was born in Milton on April 29, 1821; graduated at Harvard in 1840 and at the Harvard Law School in 1845; began practice in Boston; was representative to the General Court from Milton in 1858; was a member of the constitutional convention in 1853; served in the Executive Council in 1859-60; was captain of Company B, Forty-fifth Massachusetts Infantry in the War of the Rebellion; was county commissioner from 1868 to 1871. He was then appointed associate justice of the Boston Municipal Court, in which he had been special justice since 1867. He died in Milton on March 23, 1886.

Horatio Townsend, one of the lawyers who attended the first meeting of the Norfolk bar, was born in Medfield on March 29, 1763, and graduated at Harvard when he was twenty years old. He then studied law with Theophilus Parsons of Newburyport and upon his admission to the bar began practice in Medfield. In 1799 he was appointed special justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and about the same time was appointed clerk of the courts. He was removed from the clerk's office in 1811 by Governor Gerry, but was reappointed the following year by Governor Strong and held the office until his death, which occurred at Dedham on July 9, 1826.

Edward H. Robbins was born in Milton on February 19, 1758, and was therefore forty-four years of age when he attended the bar meeting in 1802. He graduated at Harvard in 1775; studied law with Oakes Ames of Bridgewater; began practice in his native town in 1780; was speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1793 to 1802; was elected lieutenant-governor in 1802 and held the office for four years; was one of the early justices of the Norfolk Court of Common Pleas; was appointed judge of probate for Norfolk County in 1814 and held the office until his death on December 29, 1829.

John S. Williams was born in Roxbury on May 3, 1772; graduated at Harvard in 1797; practiced law in Roxbury and Dedham; was an attorney of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1803; was appointed clerk of the courts by Governor Gerry in 1811, but was removed the next year by Governor Strong; held the office of county attorney for a time, and died at Ware, Massachusetts, in May, 1843.

James Richardson was a native of Medfield, where he was born on October 12, 1771. After graduating at Harvard in 1797 he entered the law office of Fisher Ames in Dedham as a student, and was admitted to the bar in 1799. He then formed a partnership with Fisher Ames, which lasted until the death of the latter in 1808. In 1803 he was made an attorney of the Supreme Judicial Court; was elected state senator in 1813; was a member of the constitutional convention of 1820; was one of the presidential electors in 1832; was president of the old county Bar Association for a number of years; and was president of the Norfolk Mutual Fire Insurance Company at the time of his death in May, 1858.

Jairus Ware was born in Wrentham on January 22, 1772; graduated at Brown University in 1797; practiced law in Wrentham; was representative to the General Court from 1809 to 1816 and again from 1818 to 1823; was a member of the Executive Council in 1825-26; was appointed justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas in 1811, and chief justice of the Court of Sessions in 1819. Upon

the death of Horatio Townsend in 1826, he was appointed clerk of the courts and held that office until his death at Dedham on January 18, 1836.

Gideon L. Thayer was born in Braintree on September 24, 1777, and was a son of Gen. Ebenezer Thayer. He graduated at Harvard in 1798; studied law with Benjamin Whitman of Plymouth, and with Richard Cranch of Quincy, and was admitted to the bar in 1803 or 1804, though the records show that he attended the bar meeting of 1802. He had a high standing as an attorney and became a counsellor of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1808. He died on July 17, 1829.

Thomas B. Adams, one of the early lawyers of Norfolk County, was the third son of President John Adams, and was born in Quincy on September 15, 1772, while that town was a part of Braintree. He graduated at Harvard in 1790; was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania; returned to Quincy soon after Norfolk County was incorporated; was representative to the General Court from that town in 1805; was appointed chief justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas in 1811; became a member of the Executive Council the same year; was made counsellor of the Supreme Judicial Court in March, 1808, and died at Quincy on March 12, 1832.

Erastus Worthington, native of Belchertown, was born October 8, 1779; graduated at Williams College in 1804; taught school a few terms; studied law with John Heard of Boston; was admitted to the Suffolk bar in 1807, but soon afterward removed to Dedham; was representative to the General Court in 1814-15; in 1827 he published a History of Dedham written by himself; was one of the founders of the Norfolk Mutual Fire Insurance Company; and was the author of an "Essay on the Establishment of a Chancery Jurisdiction in Massachusetts," which is believed to have been the first published argument in favor of an equity jurisdiction in the state. He died at Dedham on June 27, 1842. His son, who also bore the name of Erastus, was admitted to the bar in 1854, and was for many years one of the most active members of the Dedham Historical Society. He was trial justice for eight years and in 1866 was chosen clerk of the courts.

Theron Metcalf, one of the most prominent lawyers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the early years of the Nineteenth Century, was born in the Town of Franklin on October 16, 1784. In 1805 he graduated at Brown University and soon afterward began his legal studies with a Mr. Bacon of Canterbury, Connecticut. He was admitted to the bar in that state, after attending the law school at Litchfield (then the only law school in the United States), and then spent a year in the office of Hon. Seth Hastings at Mendon, Massachusetts. In September, 1808, he was admitted to the Norfolk bar, and in October, 1811, as a counsellor of the Supreme Judicial Court. In April, 1817, he was made county attorney, which office he held for twelve years; served three terms as representative in the General Court and was elected state senator in 1835; opened a law school in Dedham in the fall of 1828, where he had a number of students, some of whom afterward became prominent in the profession; and was for a time the editor of the Dedham Gazette. In December, 1839, he was appointed reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court, where he performed his duties with such ability and fidelity that it has been said his volumes of the Massachusetts Reports are "the model and despair of his successors." On February 25, 1848, he was appointed a justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and remained upon the bench until August 31, 1865, when he resigned. In 1844 his Alma Mater conferred

upon him the degree of LL. D. and four years later he received a similar honor from Harvard. While on the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court his opinions were noted for their precision of statement and their familiarity with precedents, both English and American, as well as with the principles and maxims of the common law. Judge Metcalf died in Boston on November 13, 1875.

Ezra Wilkinson, who was admitted to the Norfolk bar in 1828, was born in Attleboro, February 14, 1801; graduated at Brown University in 1824; studied law with Peter Pratt of Providence, Rhode Island, and Josiah J. Fiske of Wrentham; and in 1832 was admitted as a counsellor of the Supreme Judicial Court. He located at Dedham in 1835 and in 1843 was appointed by Governor Morton as district attorney for the district then composed of Norfolk and Worcester counties, which office he held for twelve years. When the Superior Court was established in 1859, Mr. Wilkinson was appointed one of the associate justices and he remained on the bench until his death on February 6, 1882. Judge Wilkinson was one of the prominent men in the democratic party in his day. He represented Dedham in the General Court in 1841, 1851 and 1856; was a member of the constitutional convention of 1853; and in one campaign was the nominee of his party for Congress against John Quincy Adams.

William Gaston, son of Alexander and Keziah (Arnold) Gaston, was born at Killingly, Connecticut, October 3, 1820, and was of Huguenot ancestry. In 1838 his father removed to Boston and in 1840 William graduated with honors at Brown University. He then entered the law office of Francis Hilliard in Roxbury, later completing his legal studies with Curtis & Curtis of Boston, and in December, 1844, was admitted to the bar. Beginning practice in Roxbury (then in Norfolk County), he soon rose to a position in the front rank of attorneys. In 1865 he formed a partnership with Harvey Jewell and Walbridge A. Field, under the firm name of Jewell, Gaston and Field, which partnership lasted until 1874. Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1867, and in 1871-72 he served as mayor of the city. In 1853-54-56 he represented Roxbury in the General Court, and in 1868 was elected to the state senate. In 1874 he was elected governor of Massachusetts and while governor received the degree of LL. D. from both Brown and Harvard universities.

Ellis Ames was born in Stoughton on October 17, 1809, and was a descendant of William Ames, who settled in Braintree in 1634. In 1830 he graduated at Brown University and then studied law in the office of William Baylies of West Bridgewater. In December, 1833, he was admitted to the bar in Plymouth County and began practice in West Bridgewater, representing that town in the Legislatures of 1833 to 1836, inclusive. In March, 1837, he removed to Canton and soon became identified with the bar of Norfolk County. It has been said of him that "His only vocation was his profession, his only avocation was historical study. The one was his life work, the other was his pleasure. To the two together he gave his time, and few were more skillful or accurate in either. He would have graced a professor's chair in history, as well as a judge's seat upon the bench." He died at Canton on October 30, 1884.

Seth Ames, the youngest child of Fisher Ames, was born in Dedham, April 19, 1805; graduated at Harvard with the class of 1825; studied law with Theron Metcalf, and was admitted to the bar in 1828. He began practice at Lowell, and in fact never practiced in Norfolk County. In 1859 he was appointed a justice of

the Superior Court and became chief justice of that tribunal in 1867. From 1869 to 1881, he was one of the associate justices of the Supreme Judicial Court. He died at his home in Brookline on August 15, 1881.

Edward Avery was born in Marblehead on March 12, 1828. His father, Gen. Samuel Avery, was a native of Vermont and was an officer in the War of 1812. Edward was educated in the Marblehead public schools, the Brooks Classical School in Boston, and the Harvard Law School. He studied law with Frederick W. Choate and was admitted to the bar in Worcester County in 1849. About two years later he located in Boston, where he formed a partnership with George M. Hobbs, becoming a resident of Norfolk County a little later. In 1866 he was elected to represent Braintree in the lower house of the Legislature and was one of the eight democrats in that body at the ensuing session. The following year he was reelected, and was also elected to the senate from the district composed of Norfolk and Plymouth counties. He was also the candidate of his party for attorney-general and member of Congress.

This list of attorneys might be extended indefinitely, but enough has been said to show the character of the men who have upheld the legal profession in Norfolk County since its establishment. Others of more or less prominence in the profession were: Naaman L. White, of Braintree; Samuel Warner and Josiah J. Fiske, of Wrentham; James Humphrey, of Weymouth; Nathaniel F. Safford, of Milton; Samuel B. Noyes, of Canton; Waldo Colburn, of Dedham; Thomas Greenleaf, of Quincy; Jonathan H. Cobb, of Sharon; and Edward L. Pierce, of Milton. Of the lawyers now living and practicing in the county,—they are too well known to need mention in this chapter.

#### BAR ASSOCIATION

In Hurd's History of Norfolk County, published in 1884, is a chapter on the Bench and Bar, written by Erastus Worthington, in which several references are made to a bar association, but no further record of that organization can be found.

In January, 1886, a number of attorneys, engaged in or waiting for hearings in the Superior Court at Dedham, were gathered in the law library adjoining the court room, when the subject of forming a bar association was mentioned. The result was that Everett C. Bumpus, Erastus Worthington and Charles A. Mackintosh were authorized to send invitations to attorneys practicing in the county to meet at the office of James E. Cotter in Boston, Saturday noon, January 23, 1886, to form such an association. Twenty-eight lawyers responded to the invitations and met at the appointed time and place. Asa French was chosen chairman, and Oscar A. Marden, secretary. These two gentlemen, with Charles A. Mackintosh, Erastus Worthington, George W. Wiggin, Everett C. Bumpus and James E. Cotter, were chosen as a committee to present a plan of organization at an adjourned meeting to be held at the district attorney's office in Dedham on February 16, 1886.

At the adjourned meeting, the committee submitted a constitution, which was adopted, and the following officers were elected: Asa French, president; Erastus Worthington, vice president; Oscar A. Marden, secretary; George W. Wiggin, treasurer; Everett C. Bumpus, James E. Cotter, Moses Williams, Alonzo

B. Wentworth, William G. A. Pattee, Henry F. Buswell, Charles H. Drew, James Hewins and Charles A. Mackintosh, council. The name, adopted at that meeting, is "The Bar Association of Norfolk County."

Henry F. Buswell, George K. Clarke and Sigourney Butler were elected a committee to arrange for the first dinner of the association, and Mr. Buswell and Mr. Clarke have been on the dinner committee from that date to the present. The annual meeting and dinner of the association is held on the Saturday next preceding the third Tuesday of February.

Any attorney regularly admitted to practice in the Massachusetts courts, residing or practicing in Norfolk County, is eligible for membership. The roll of membership, as published in 1917, bears the names of 215 who are or have been members. Fourteen of the original twenty-eight who met at Mr. Cotter's office on January 23, 1886, are still living and engaged in practice. Fifty members have been removed by death, and the present active membership is about sixty. The presidents of the association have been as follows: Asa French, 1886-92; Edward Avery, 1892-95; Erastus Worthington, 1895-97; James E. Cotter, 1897-99; Frederick D. Ely, 1899-1901; Oscar A. Marden, 1901-03; George W. Wiggin, 1903-05; Asa P. French, 1905-17.

Oscar A. Marden served as secretary until 1892, when he was succeeded by George K. Clarke, who was succeeded in turn in 1900 by Edward S. Fellows, who served but one year. Charles F. Spear was elected in 1901, and served until 1908, since which time Robert W. Carpenter has been secretary. The treasurers have been—George W. Wiggin, John P. S. Churchill, Ira C. Hersey, Edwin C. Jenney and Albert P. Worthen.

The officers for 1917 are as follows: President, Henry T. Richardson; Vice President, John W. McAnarney; Secretary, Robert W. Carpenter; Treasurer, Albert P. Worthen; Council, the four officers above named and Albert E. Avery, Homer Albers, Joseph P. Draper, Frederick G. Katzman, Fred. L. Norton, Russell A. Sears, George A. Sweetser, H. Ware Barnum and Everett C. Bumpus.

#### LAW LIBRARY

A Law Library Association was organized in 1815 and continued in existence until 1845. An attempt was made to reorganize it in 1860, but it was unsuccessful. The present Norfolk County Law Library Association was formed in the year 1898 by the organization of attorneys-at-law resident in the county. The law provides that the inhabitants of the county shall have access to the library and may use the books therein subject to the provisions of by-laws adopted by the association. The county treasurer is required to pay annually to the association all sums paid into the county treasury by the clerk of the courts to an amount not exceeding \$2,000 in one year, such sums to be applied to maintain and enlarge the library for the use of the courts and of citizens. Since the formation of the association a total of \$39,819.80, not including the sums accrued in 1916, has been contributed by the county for the support of the library. The library is provided by the county with rooms at the court house in Dedham.

## CHAPTER XLIV

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

MEDICINE AMONG THE ANCIENTS—CHINA—EGYPT—THE HEBREWS—INDIA—GREECE  
—HARVEY AND SYDENHAM—EARLY NORFOLK PHYSICIANS—BRIEF SKETCHES OF  
PROMINENT DOCTORS—FIRST VACCINATION IN AMERICA—THE NINETEENTH CEN-  
TURY—MEDICAL SOCIETIES—HOMEOPATHY—DOCTOR MORTON.

The practice of medicine in some form or another is almost as old as the human race. When the first man "felt out of sorts," he doubtless sought for some plant that would relieve his suffering. If a remedy was discovered, he told his neighbor and in this way was built up a crude *materia medica* that has been improved upon by the succeeding generations, until the physician has come to be one of the established institutions in all civilized countries.

According to Chinese traditions, a system of medicine was introduced in that country by the Emperor Hwang-ti, about the year 2687 B. C. Although the early Chinese doctor knew nothing of the circulation of the blood, noting the action of the pulse was a part of his elaborate diagnosis. He knew nothing of anatomy and his remedies were compounded with certain spells and incantations to add to their effectiveness. Yet some of the methods employed by the ancient Chinese physician—such as cupping, blistering and the application of plasters—are in use by the doctors of the present day. Missionaries finally introduced modern medicine into the Celestial Empire and the old school has largely passed away.

Egyptian papyri of the period of 1600 B. C., or even earlier, show that the art of healing was not unknown in that country. It was practiced by the priests with many ceremonial rites. Some of these priests were specialists in certain diseases, and Baas, in his *History of Medicine*, says: "The last six volumes of the Sacred Book contain much information regarding the art of healing, and in completeness and arrangement rival the Hippocratic collection, which they antedate by a thousand years."

Among the Hebrews disease was regarded as a punishment for sin until after the two captivities, when physicians made their appearance. Compared with modern physicians, they were ignorant of the first principles of medical science, but even they were looked upon by the multitude as men of great wisdom. They knew little or nothing of human anatomy and their system of treatment appealed to the superstition of the patient more than to his good sense.

Records in the Vedas or sacred books of India show that demonology played an important part in the healing of the sick. Before any treatment could be effective, the evil spirit must be expelled from the person who was ill. Physicians among the Brahmins, or highest caste, were given a rigorous course of

training, in which "piety and diet" constituted the principal subjects to be mastered.

Chiron the Centaur was the first to practice medicine in Greece. He was the fabled preceptor of Æsculapius, and the names of Galen and Hippocrates are still held in respect by the members of the medical profession, the latter being known as the "Father of Medicine."

As an example of the opposition the science of medicine has had to overcome, note the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Dr. William Harvey. Doctor Harvey studied in various schools and received his degree in 1602. In 1615 he was made professor of anatomy and surgery in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and the next year announced his great discovery. Prior to that time anatomists had taught that the blood was always in motion through the veins, but that the arteries were air passages, because they were always found empty after death. Harvey's theory was received with ridicule by the laity, and even some of the most learned physicians of that period looked upon it with suspicion. Investigation proved the correctness of his theory and the action and functions of the heart became known to the profession for the first time in history.

Another physician about this time—Thomas Sydenham—introduced laudanum into the practice of medicine. The deleterious effects of opium had long been known and the idea of using it in any form as a remedy for disease did not appeal to the practicing physicians. One eminent doctor branded Sydenham as "an agent of the devil." Sydenham also was the first to use cinchona in the treatment of malarial diseases, but this remedy met with less opposition. Because he went with Parliament against King Charles, the College of Physicians refused him a fellowship, but after his death his bust was placed in the hall by the side of Harvey's. The famous Sydenham Society, for the publication of medical works, bears his name.

Voltaire, who wrote as late as the latter Eighteenth Century, defined a physician as "a man who crams drugs of which he knows little into a body of which he knows less." That may have been true of a certain class of empirics in Voltaire's day, but it will hardly apply to the profession of a century later. One by one the obstacles interposed by ignorance and prejudice have been surmounted, step by step the profession has been placed upon a higher plane, until today the physician is usually a man of mark in the community, regarded alike for his professional skill and his standing as a citizen.

#### EARLY NORFOLK PHYSICIANS

When the first settlers came into Norfolk County, the professional physician was "conspicuous by his absence." Many of the immigrants brought with them from the mother country plants (or seeds of plants) known to have a medicinal value, and these were assiduously cultivated and preserved to be used in remedies in ordinary cases of illness. From the Indians they learned of native plants and almost every household had a supply laid away against the time when they should be needed. Teas, decoctions, poultices and plasters were the most common of these "home-made" remedies and applications.

It would be impossible to give a complete list of the early doctors who prae-

ticed in the county. Some lived their allotted time and passed away without leaving any record of their doings. Others, after dwelling in one of the pioneer settlements for a few years, removed to other fields of labor and have been forgotten. One of the earliest physicians to follow his calling in the Massachusetts Bay colony was Dr. William Dinely, who practiced both medicine and surgery and was in great demand. He was lost in a snow storm between Boston and Roxbury and perished. About two weeks after his death his widow gave birth to a son, who was named "Fathergone Dinely."

A number of the early clergymen understood the rudiments of medicine and administered simple remedies in cases where the character of the disease was well known. One of these was Rev. Peter Thatcher, who came to Milton in 1681 as the first regular pastor of the Congregational Church. "A man he was of uncommon gifts and acquirements," says Cotton Mather, "spending in medicines, it may be some scores of pounds and a great part of his yearly salary, which he freely bestowed upon the invalids among his people—ay, it may be, on those of all the country round." He died in 1727.

Henry Dengayne, one of the signers of the Dedham Covenant in 1635, was a physician, but there is no evidence to show that he ever resided or practiced his profession within the present limits of Norfolk County.

Dr. William Avery, another signer of the Dedham Covenant, located in that town as one of the first settlers. An old record gives his occupation as "physician and apothecary." He was a member of the artillery company in 1654; representative to the General Court in 1669; lieutenant of the town's militia company in 1673; and in 1680 gave the town sixty pounds for the purpose of establishing a Latin school. One of the public school buildings in Dedham is still known as the "Avery School." Doctor Avery died in Boston on March 18, 1687, aged about seventy-five years, hence he could not have been more than twenty-three years of age when he first came to Dedham. His son, also named William, was for a long time a deacon in the church and was a member of the board of selectmen for twenty-two years.

Dr. Thomas Boylston, whose father, Thomas Boylston, settled at Watertown in 1635, became an eminent surgeon. His son, Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, was born in 1680 and followed the profession of his father. He was one of the first physicians to locate in Brookline and became a Fellow of the Royal Society. In his professional career is seen another instance of opposition to the introduction of new methods of treatment of disease. Boston was scourged by an epidemic of smallpox in the spring of 1721 and Rev. Cotton Mather explained to Doctor Boylston the transaction of the Royal Society respecting the practice of vaccination (or inoculation as it was at first called). Being of a progressive turn of mind, Doctor Boylston immediately acquainted himself with the method of introducing the virus into the human system, after which he broached the subject to some of the Boston physicians. There he met with violent and unexpected opposition, the medical men holding that to introduce the germs of a deadly disease into a patient was a crime which came under the classification of poisoning, while the ministers preached against it and wrote pamphlets to show that the smallpox was "a judgment from God for the sins of the people, and that to try to check its sway would only provoke Him the more." Nevertheless, Doctor Boylston, on June 27, 1721, vaccinated his only son and two negro servants. This was the first

time the operation was ever performed in America. The following account of the event is taken from Barber's Historical Collections of Massachusetts:

"Probably there never was greater opposition to any measure of real public utility than was exhibited on this occasion. Doctor Boylston was execrated and persecuted as a murderer, assaulted in the streets and loaded with every species of abuse. His house was attacked with violence, so that neither himself nor his family could feel secure in it. At one time he remained fourteen days in a secret apartment of his own house, unknown to any of his family except his wife. The enraged inhabitants patrolled the town in parties, with halts in their hands, threatening to hang him on the nearest tree, and repeatedly entered his house in search of him during his concealment. Such was the madness of the multitude that, even after the excitement had in some measure subsided, he only ventured to visit his patients at midnight, and then in disguise. He also had to encounter violent opposition from most of the members of his profession, and notwithstanding he invited them all to visit his patients and judge for themselves, received nothing but threats and insults in reply. Indeed, many sober, pious people were deliberately of the opinion, when inoculation was first commenced, that should any of his patients die, the doctor ought to be capitally indicted. He was repeatedly summoned before the selectmen of Boston and received their reprehension. His only friends were Dr. Cotton Mather and other clergymen, most of whom became zealous advocates for the new practice and consequently drew upon themselves much odium from the populace. Some of them received personal injury; others were insulted in the streets and were hardly safe in their own dwellings; nor were their services acceptable on Sunday to their respective audiences."

A bill for prohibiting the practice of vaccination passed the lower branch of the Massachusetts Legislature, but failed to pass the Council. Now mark the sequel. In 1792, only a long lifetime after the persecution of Doctor Boylston, when another epidemic of smallpox appeared in Boston, "the whole town was inoculated in three days to appease the infatuation of the inhabitants respecting the danger apprehended from this deadly pestilence." It is due to such men as Dr. Zabdiel Boylston that the human race makes progress. His death occurred on March 1, 1766. One of the principal streets in Boston bears his family name. He was the first American to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Special inducements were sometimes made to physicians to locate in a town. At a town meeting in Weymouth on March 14, 1727, it was "voted to grant to Dr. Nathaniel White the five acres of land formerly granted to John Vinson, provided Doctor White continues in the town of Weymouth and in the practice of his profession, and in case he shall remove out of the town, said White to purchase said land or return it to the town again." Doctor White was born in Weymouth in 1701 and graduated at Harvard in 1725. He then studied medicine and began practice in his native town, accepting the grant above mentioned. It is related of him that when anyone called upon him to visit a patient when the weather was inclement, his answer was almost invariably, "It is too bad to go out," yet he always went. For years he resided at the corner of Main and Paul streets, Weymouth. He died on November 23, 1758.

Dr. James Mann was born in Wrentham in 1758 and graduated at Harvard in 1776. He also received the degree of M. D. from Brown University and Yale

College. At the beginning of the Revolution he was practicing in his native town. He entered the army as a surgeon and served for three years. During the War of 1812 he held the post of hospital surgeon of the United States army and was chief of the medical staff on the northern frontier. After the war he was post surgeon for a time and published "Medical Sketches of the Campaigns of 1812, 1813 and 1814." He died in 1832.

Dr. Benjamin Richards was born in Weymouth on August 12, 1714. He studied medicine and practiced in North Weymouth for many years, becoming eminent in his profession. His death occurred on January 25, 1755.

Dr. James Torrey was born at Ashford, Connecticut, in 1756. He first learned the trade of tanner and while working at that occupation studied medicine. His first practice was at Lebanon, Connecticut, and next at Nantucket, Massachusetts. During the Revolution he served as surgeon's mate in the Massachusetts militia. In 1783 he located at South Weymouth, where he continued in practice until a short time before his death on December 16, 1817.

Dr. Daniel French, a native of Hingham, was born about 1720, and practiced in East Weymouth for years. He died suddenly in 1775, while crossing a field to visit a patient. His grandson, Samuel French, later occupied the old homestead on Commercial street.

Another old time physician was Dr. Clifford Belcher, who was practicing in that part of Stoughton now Canton as early as June, 1739, as he was one of the signers of the petition to the General Court, asking for the establishment of a precinct. It is said that he and Rev. Samuel Dunbar, both men of powerful physique, used to indulge in private wrestling matches and other tests of physical strength. He died on April 26, 1773, aged about sixty-three years.

Dr. Samuel Gardner, a son of Rev. John Gardner, graduated at Harvard in 1746, located in Milton about 1752, married Miss Mary Cooper, a granddaughter of William Foye, who was one of the Milton pioneers. He continued to practice in Milton until a short time before his death, which occurred on January 18, 1778. One of his contemporary physicians in Milton was Dr. Eliot Rawson, of whom little can be learned.

About 1759 Dr. Cotton Tufts settled in the northern part of the Town of Weymouth. He was a well educated, progressive man and took great interest in local political affairs and general social conditions. On March 10, 1760, he was chosen as Weymouth's agent to confer with representatives of other towns regarding the formation of a new county. For more than half a century he was one of the most prominent citizens and a physician of recognized ability. Two of his grandchildren—Quincy and Susan Tufts—presented the town of Weymouth with the public library known as the "Tufts Library" in 1879.

Dr. Shadrach Winslow, who located in Foxboro about 1784, was a graduate of Yale College and a physician of fine qualifications. Before coming to Foxboro he had served as surgeon on a privateer, but was captured, carried to England and confined for several months in Dartmoor prison. While in prison his health became impaired to such an extent that he never completely recovered.

Dr. Nathaniel Ames, son of Capt. Nathaniel Ames, was born in the Town of Bridgewater on July 22, 1708. When about twenty-four years of age he located in Dedham, where in September, 1735, he married Mary, daughter of Joshua Fisher. She died on November 11, 1737, and on October 30, 1740, Doctor Ames

married Deborah, daughter of Jeremiah Fisher. One son of this union was Fisher Ames, mention of whom is made in another chapter. Shortly after his first marriage, Doctor Ames engaged in business as a tavern keeper and his house was a popular stopping place for many years. For thirty-eight years prior to his death he published an "almanack" annually. He has been described as "a man of acuteness and wit, of great activity and of a cheerful and amiable temper. To his skill in his profession he added a knowledge of natural philosophy, astronomy and mathematics." His death occurred on July 11, 1764. His son Nathaniel graduated at Harvard in 1761, at the age of twenty years, studied medicine and practiced in Dedham until his death in 1822. For several years he continued the publication of the "almanacks" started by his father.

Among the other physicians who practiced in the county prior to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century were: Doctor Jirauld, a Frenchman, who located on a Medfield farm as early as 1729; Dr. George Crossman, who practiced in Canton and was town clerk for many years; Dr. John Corbett, one of the early physicians of Bellingham; Dr. William Aspinwall of Brookline, who graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1768; Dr. John Pitcher, who was in Canton for a few years beginning about 1759. Drs. Moses Baker, Jonathan Stone and Ralph Pope were all well known physicians in their day.

#### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Probably no physician in the early years of the Nineteenth Century achieved more prominence than Dr. Oliver Dean, who was born in Franklin on February 18, 1783, attended the Framingham Academy and then began the study of medicine with Dr. James Mann, one of the early physicians of Wrentham. He completed his studies under Doctor Ingalls of Boston and in 1809 received the degree of M. D. from the Massachusetts Medical Society. From that time until 1817 he practiced in Boston and Medway, when his health failed and he became superintendent of the Medway Cotton Mills. For the next twenty years he was connected with manufacturing enterprises. Late in life he bought part of the Emmons estate in Franklin and founded the Dean Academy there.

Dr. Ebenezer Alden was born in Randolph on March 17, 1788. His father, who was also a physician, began practice in what is now Randolph about 1781. Dr. Ebenezer Alden graduated at Harvard in 1808 and four years later received the degree of M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Returning to his native town, he practiced there until a few years before his death on January 26, 1881.

Dr. Appleton Howe was born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, November 26, 1792; was fitted for college at Phillips Andover Academy; graduated at Harvard in 1815; received the degree of M. D. from the medical department of that institution in 1819, and soon afterward located in the Second Parish of Weymouth. For many years he was president of the old Norfolk County Medical Society. He was deeply interested in military matters and in 1839 was commissioned major-general of the First Division, Massachusetts militia. At one time he was captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. Besides attending to his professional work, he filled many positions of trust and responsibility. He was for many years president of the Weymouth Savings Bank, and was one of

the officers of the Braintree Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1841 he was elected state senator. He died at his Weymouth home on October 10, 1870.

Dr. James A. Stetson was born in Braintree on December 28, 1806, graduated at Columbia College, New York, and received his medical degree from Harvard. He then located in Quincy, where he built up a lucrative practice and took high rank as a physician. At the time of his decease on March 15, 1880, it is said that he was the oldest practicing physician in Norfolk County. At one time he represented the town in the General Court, but preferred to give his attention to his profession rather than to political affairs.

A volume could be filled with the personal sketches of Norfolk County physicians, but from those given the reader can easily judge the type of men who engaged in the practice of the profession during the first, and part of the last, half of the Nineteenth Century. Others of equal skill and prominence were: Dr. Shadrach Atwood, who came to Bellingham about 1828 and some nine years later removed to Franklin, where he continued in practice until his death; Dr. Ebenezer Stone, who practiced in Walpole from 1824 to 1869; Dr. Isaac Smith of Foxboro, who was engaged in the ministry for many years, until his voice failed, when, having previously obtained a medical education followed that profession for the remainder of his life with great success, and Dr. George A. Southgate, who came to Dedham in 1863 and practiced there for many years.

#### MEDICAL SOCIETIES

The Massachusetts Medical Society was organized in 1782, "by the better educated physicians to establish a standard of medical education." The Norfolk District Medical Society, one of the subordinate organizations auxiliary to the State Medical Society, was organized in 1850, with the following charter members: Andrew Alexander, Henry Blanchard, Benjamin E. Cotting, Lemuel Dickerman, George Faulkner, John S. Flint, David S. Fogg, Tappan E. Francis, James F. Harlow, Edward Jarvis, George King, Henry A. Martin, John P. Maynard, Horatio G. Morse, Joseph H. Streeter and Benjamin F. Wing.

The society has been in continuous existence since its organization and now has a strong membership. The officers for 1915 (the latest list available) were as follows: Dr. M. V. Pierce, president; Dr. T. F. Greene, vice president; Dr. Bradford Kent, secretary; Dr. G. W. Kaan, treasurer; Drs. E. P. Starbird, R. W. Hastings, B. N. Bridgman, W. C. Kite, M. J. Cronin, censors; Dr. A. P. Perry, commissioner of trials.

The Norfolk South District Medical Society includes the towns of Avon, Braintree, Cohasset, Hingham, Hull, Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth. The officers of this society in 1916 were: Dr. F. C. Granger, president; Dr. J. H. Ash, vice president; Dr. F. H. Merriam, secretary and treasurer; Drs. F. C. Granger, C. S. Adams, J. C. Fraser and J. A. Gordon, councilors; Drs. J. C. Fraser, W. A. Drake, W. J. McCausland, T. J. Dion and F. E. Jones, censors; Dr. N. S. Hunting, commissioner of trials; Dr. F. H. Merriam, librarian.

#### HOMEOPATHY

It is not certain who was the first homeopathic physician to practice in Norfolk County, but one of the earliest was Dr. Charles Wild of Brookline. He was

born in Boston on January 15, 1795, and graduated at Harvard in 1814. Three years later he received the degree of M. D. from the medical department of that famous institution and in the spring of 1818 located in Brookline. For about twenty years he practiced according to the methods of the old allopathic school, becoming a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1828. In 1839 his attention was called to Hahnemann's new theory of medical practice, and after investigating it espoused the system of homeopathic treatment. On February 16, 1841, the few pioneers of homeopathy in Massachusetts held their second meeting at the residence of Doctor Wild, and on that occasion was adopted the constitution and by-laws of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Medical Society, of which he was at one time president in after years. He died at North Providence, Rhode Island, February 3, 1864.

Dr. David Thayer, another physician whose experience was similar to that of Doctor Wild's was born in Braintree on July 19, 1813. After attending the schools of his native town he became a student at Weymouth Academy, and in 1833 entered Phillips Andover Academy to fit himself for college. Shortly after that George Thompson, the noted English anti-slavery orator, lectured in Andover and young Thayer was one of his converts. The faculty forbade the formation of an anti-slavery society among the students, or the discussion of the slavery question in the societies. About forty students, among whom was David Thayer, then withdrew from the institution. He then completed his preparations for college in the Appleton Academy at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and in 1840 graduated at Union College. His father died in 1842 and soon after that David entered the medical department of Harvard College, though he had not at that time made up his mind ever to become a practitioner. In 1843 he received the degree of M. D. from the Berkshire Medical Institute, located at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The next year he began practice and in 1845 opened a dispensary in Boylston Hall, in connection with Dr. C. F. Hoffendahl, a homeopathic physician, for free medical treatment of the poor of Boston. From Dr. Hoffendahl he learned a great deal about the homeopathic theories and in 1847 joined the Massachusetts Homeopathic Medical Society, of which he was elected president in 1870.

In 1873 Doctor Thayer and seven other homeopathic physicians, also members of the "regular" or allopathic school, were expelled from the Massachusetts Medical Society, "for conduct unworthy and unbecoming an honorable physician and member of the society." Their offense was practicing medicine according to homeopathic teachings. When the Boston University was established, Doctor Thayer was active in organizing the medical department on a homeopathic basis. In that department he held the chair of Practice and Institutes of Medicine for eight years.

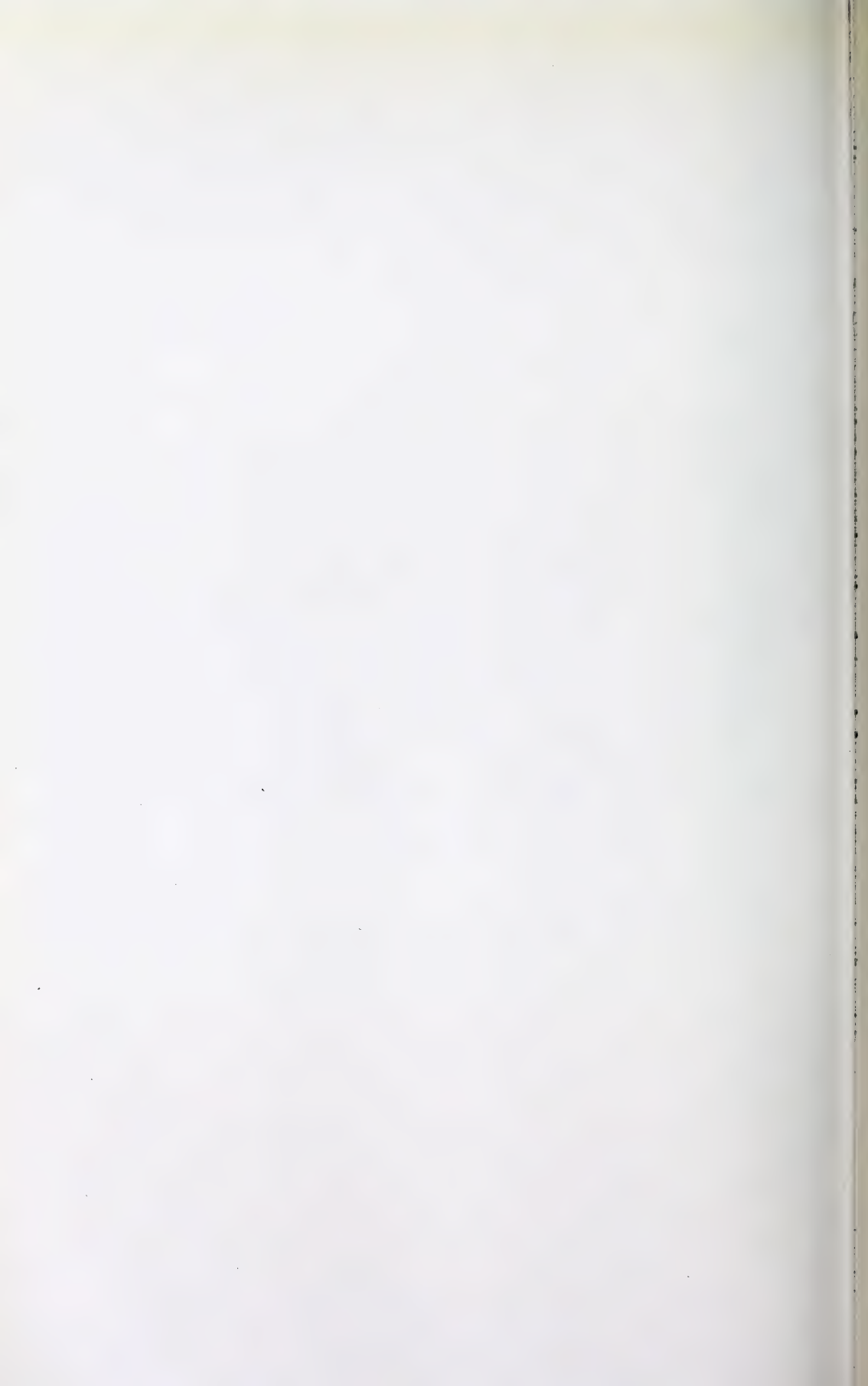
Although the number of homeopathic physicians in Norfolk County has never been large, when compared with the physicians of the old school, they have shown themselves to be as earnest in their endeavors to check the ravages of disease as their professional allopathic brethren. In fact the physicians of Norfolk County, irrespective of the system which they employ, will compare favorably with those of any county in the Union.

## DR. WILLIAM T. G. MORTON

Dr. William T. G. Morton was born at Charlton, Worcester County, in 1819, studied dentistry and began practice in 1842. While studying medicine with Dr. Charles T. Jackson about two years later he discovered the value of sulphuric ether as a local anesthetic, first using it in dental work. He obtained a patent on his discovery for which he refused \$100,000 offered by the United States Congress. Ether was first used in a surgical operation at the Massachusetts General Hospital in October, 1846, in the removal of a facial tumor, though a Dr. C. W. Long of Georgia claimed that he used it as early as 1842. Doctor Morton lived at one time in Medfield, Norfolk County.



MORTON HOUSE, THE HOME OF DR. WILLIAM T. G. MORTON,  
DISCOVERER OF ANESTHESIA



## CHAPTER XLV

### EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DEDHAM SCHOOL TABLET—FIRST FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL IN AMERICA—FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE — EARLY TEACHERS — AMES SCHOOL — OTHER EARLY SCHOOLS — PUBLIC SCHOOL STATISTICS—ADAMS ACADEMY—BROOKLINE CLASSICAL SCHOOL—DEAN ACADEMY—WOODWARD INSTITUTE—WELLESLEY COLLEGE—THAYER ACADEMY—WEYMOUTH AND BRAINTREE ACADEMY—UNION TRAINING SCHOOL—AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL—MISCELLANEOUS.

Near the Unitarian Church and facing High street, in the Town of Dedham, is a large boulder, to which is attached a bronze tablet bearing the following inscription:

This Tablet is erected by the  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
To Commemorate the Establishment  
by the Inhabitants of Dedham  
in Town Meeting Assembled  
on the First of January 1644  
of a Free Public School  
to be Maintained by General Taxation  
Near this Spot Stood the  
First School House Built by the Town  
1649.

The history of this first free public school in America, as shown by the Dedham town records, is as follows: On January 2, 1643, a town meeting, attended by fifty-one citizens, was considering the allotment of land. The record of that meeting contains this statement: "It was with an unanimous consent concluded that some Portion of ye land in this entended Division should be set apart for Publique use: viz for the Towne, the Church and a fre Schoole: viz 40 acres at the leaste or 60 acres at the moste."

There the matter rested for a year, but at another meeting held on January 1, 1644, the subject of establishing a free school again came up for consideration. The manner in which the question was disposed of is told in the following record of the meeting:

"The said Inhabitants taking into Consideration the greate Necesitie of providing some means for the Education of the youth in o'r s'd Towne did with an unanimous consent declare by voate their willingness to promoate that worke promising to put too their hands to Provide maintenance for a Free Schoole in

our said Towne. And farther did resolve & consent testifying it by voate to rayse the summe of 20 pounds p annu towards the maintaining of a School M<sup>r</sup> to keepe a free schoole in our s'd Towne.

"And also did resolve & Consent to betruest the s'd 20 £ p annu & certain lands in our Towne formerly set apart for publique use into the hand of Feofees (trustees) to be presently chosen by them selves to imploy the sd 20 £ and the land afores'd to be improved for the use of the said Schoole: that as the proffits shall arise from ye sd land every man may be proportionately abated his some of ye sd 20 £ aforesaid freely to be given to the use afores'd And y<sup>t</sup> ye said Feofees shall have power to make a Rate for the necessary charg of improving said land: they giving account thereof to the Towne or to those whom they should depute. John Hunting, Eld<sup>r</sup>, Eliazer Lusher, Francis Chickeringe, John Dwight & Michael Powell are chosen Feofees & betrusted in behalfe of the schoole as afore said."

#### FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE

The history of this first American free school during the first five years of its existence has not been preserved. There is a tradition that Ralph Wheelock, the ancestor of the first and second presidents of Dartmouth College, was one of the early teachers. John Brock, a son of Henry Brock, one of the signers of the Dedham Covenant, graduated at Harvard in 1646, and it is believed he taught in Dedham the following year. Where the school was taught is a matter of conjecture.

On January 15, 1649, a town meeting was held, in the minutes of which is the following entry: "A schoole house to be built as followeth, together with a watch house, the length 18 foote being 14 foote beside the chimney: the wideness 15 foote the studd 9 foote betwixt joynts one floor of joyce: 2 convenient windowes in the lower roome & one in ye chamber the plancher layed the floor planked the stayers made the sides boarded feather edged & rabitted the doors made & Hanged.

"The watch house to be a leanto sett at the back of the chimney sixe foote wide the length thereof 2 foote & one half more than ye house is wide so placed that the end therof may Extend past the corner of ye house so that the watch may have an Aspect 4 severall wayes & open windowes therein suitable to a watch house: & covered w<sup>th</sup> board up to those windowes & upon ye rooffe & a mandle tree hewen & fitted for ye Chimney."

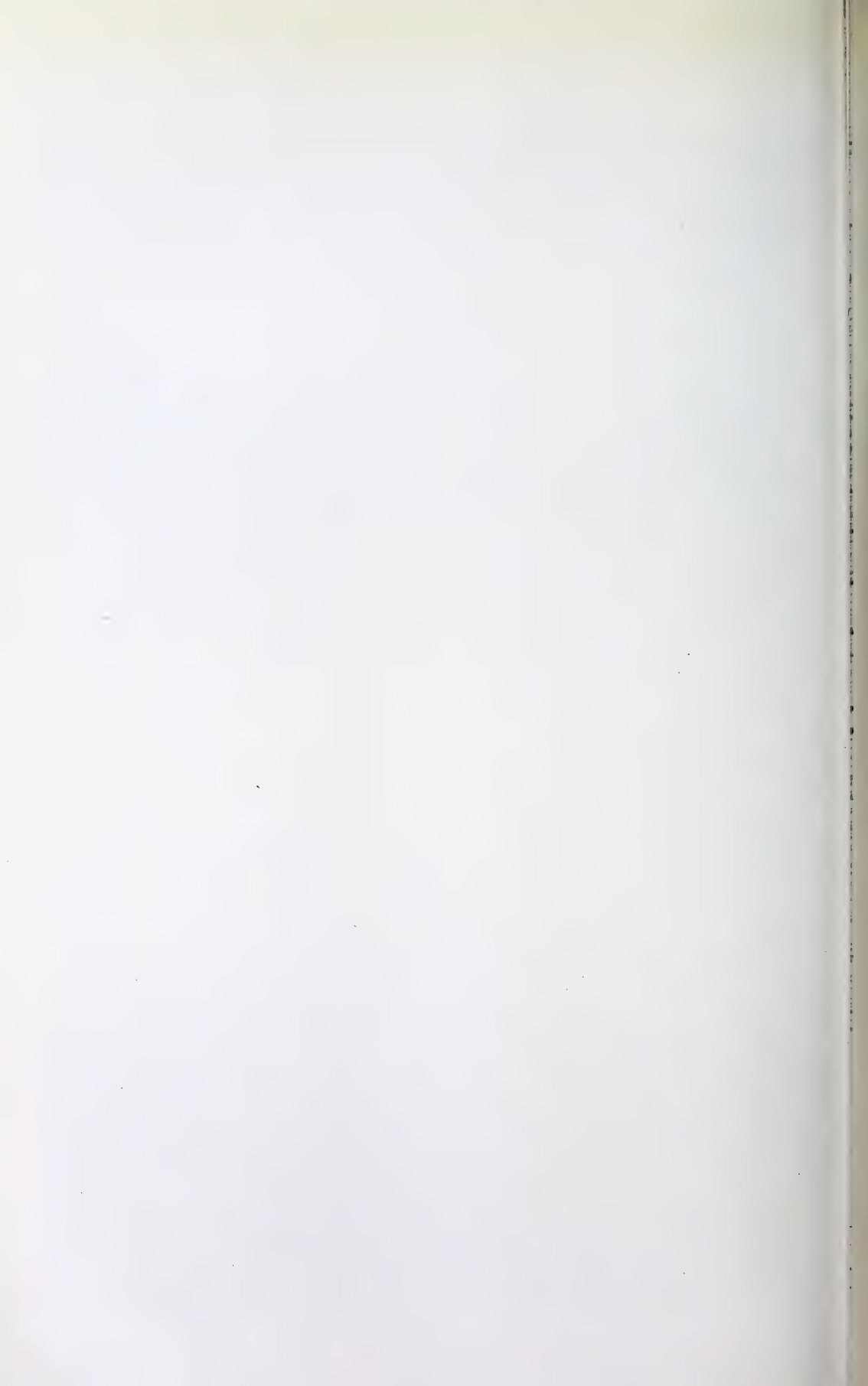
Such were the specifications for the first school house erected at public expense in the New World. It was located near the spot where the bowlder and tablet above mentioned are now situated. Among the early teachers in this house were Jacob Farrow, Joshua Fisher, Michael Metcalf, Joseph Ellis and Samuel Mann. Joshua Fisher appears to have agreed to "keepe ye schoole" for a short time only when it was found difficult to secure another teacher. At the close of his term the town records show that "Lieut. Fisher is requested and undertakes to repayer the broken panes of glass in ye meeting house so farre as he may finde glass spare for that use." From this it may be inferred that the school boys of 1654 were as careless in playing ball or hurling stones as those of the present day, and the school house was too near the church for the safety of the windows of that structure.



HISTORICAL BUILDING, DEDHAM



SITE OF FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN AMERICA, DEDHAM



On Washington street, about two blocks southerly from Memorial Hall, stands a fine modern school building, which is evidently regarded by the people of Dedham as the successor of the first school established in the town, as over the main entrance is the following inscription:

1644—AMES SCHOOL—1897  
Named in Honor of Fisher Ames  
A Native of Dedham, A Wise Statesman  
and a Friend of Washington.

#### OTHER EARLY SCHOOLS

Although Dedham is credited with being the first town to establish a school supported by taxation, it must not be inferred that the subject of education was neglected in the other towns. As a rule, as soon as a church was established by the early settlers, they began to take measures to educate their children. These early schools were partly supported by assessments upon each scholar, the tuition fees being made payable in wood. As nearly every parent owned land upon which there was a growth of timber, all that was required to pay the assessments was a little labor.

There is a tradition that William Coddington gave to the Town of Braintree certain lands, the income of which was to be used for the support of a school. When the town was divided the fund arising from this source was also divided. The record relating to the Coddington grant is headed: "The Schoole Lands 1640," but it is incomplete, owing to its great age and the worn state of the paper. In the margin are the words: "Deed of the Land recovered of Mr. Coddington." Some years ago Samuel A. Bates investigated this subject, and his conclusion is as follows: "That the Town of Braintree sued Coddington is undeniable, that the courts allowed the town this land is substantiated, and that the town paid for the land is equally true. Did Coddington then give this land for the benefit of the schools? I answer, decidedly, No; and until some evidence is produced to substantiate that claim, I shall adhere to that opinion."

The land referred to is the tract known as "Coddington's Neck." Whether it was given by the original owner for educational purposes or not, a school was established in Braintree soon after the town was organized. It is believed that Henry Flint, teacher of the First Church, was also the first schoolmaster. A mutilated record of 1648 contains an account of the sale of the school house by Mr. Flint to Dr. John Morly, who was probably the second teacher. That school was located within the present limits of Quincy. After the town was divided a school was established in the present Town of Braintree. Says Mr. Bates: "On October 1, 1716, the selectmen agreed with Joseph Parmiter to keep the school at Monotoquod for six shillings per week and his diet. What his diet cost we know not, as Mr. Peter Hobart received about six pounds for diet and a pair of shoes, together with a part of his school wages. He was engaged the next year at eleven shillings per week."

To attempt to trace the formation and development of the schools in all the towns of the county, even if the records were complete, would require much space. In Medfield a school was established "at the town's expense" in 1655.

with Ralph Wheelock as the teacher. Mr. Wheelock was the ancestor of the first and second presidents of Dartmouth College. The first school house was built in Medfield in 1666. It was fourteen feet wide and eighteen feet long.

Brookline's school history begins with the vote of the Boston town meeting of December 8, 1686, when the settlement at Muddy River was given the privilege of managing its own affairs, on condition that "the Inhabitants raise a Scholl hous and maintayne an Able reading and writing master." The first school house was built on School street, then known as "School House Lane." John Searl was one of the early teachers.

On October 28, 1697, the Town of Medfield appropriated "fifty shillings for schooling the children on the west side of Charles River." This was the first step toward the establishment of a school in the Town of Millis (then Medway), and Joseph Daniell was employed in May, 1699, to teach the school.

Wrentham's first school dates its beginning from a town meeting called for December 19, 1701, "to act upon the subject of establishing a school as the law direct." There were then the requisite number of householders (fifty) in the town, and the matter of establishing a school could no longer be postponed. The meeting voted to procure a schoolmaster, but it seems none was "procurable." The first school house was built in 1702, and the first school in that building was taught by Theodore Mann.

Needham was incorporated in 1711 and Bellingham in 1719. It is known that schools were established in both towns soon after their incorporation, but just when and where the first school was taught, or who was the teacher, cannot be ascertained.

In Cohasset the first reference to school matters bears date of March 31, 1721, when "John Farrow, Obediah Lincoln and Joseph Bate are chosen to take care concerning the school, and to take the money from Hingham, and to dispose of it as followeth: One third part of it to be paid to a school dame for teaching the children to read, and two-thirds of the money to be disposed of to teach the children to write and cipher."

On March 28, 1734, at a town meeting in Stoughton "it was put to vote whether ye town would build a School house and it past in ye affirmative, also voted to grant a tax of twenty Pounds to be laid out in building said House & that said School house should be set on ye Town's land near ye Meeting house." That was the first school house in what is now the Town of Canton.

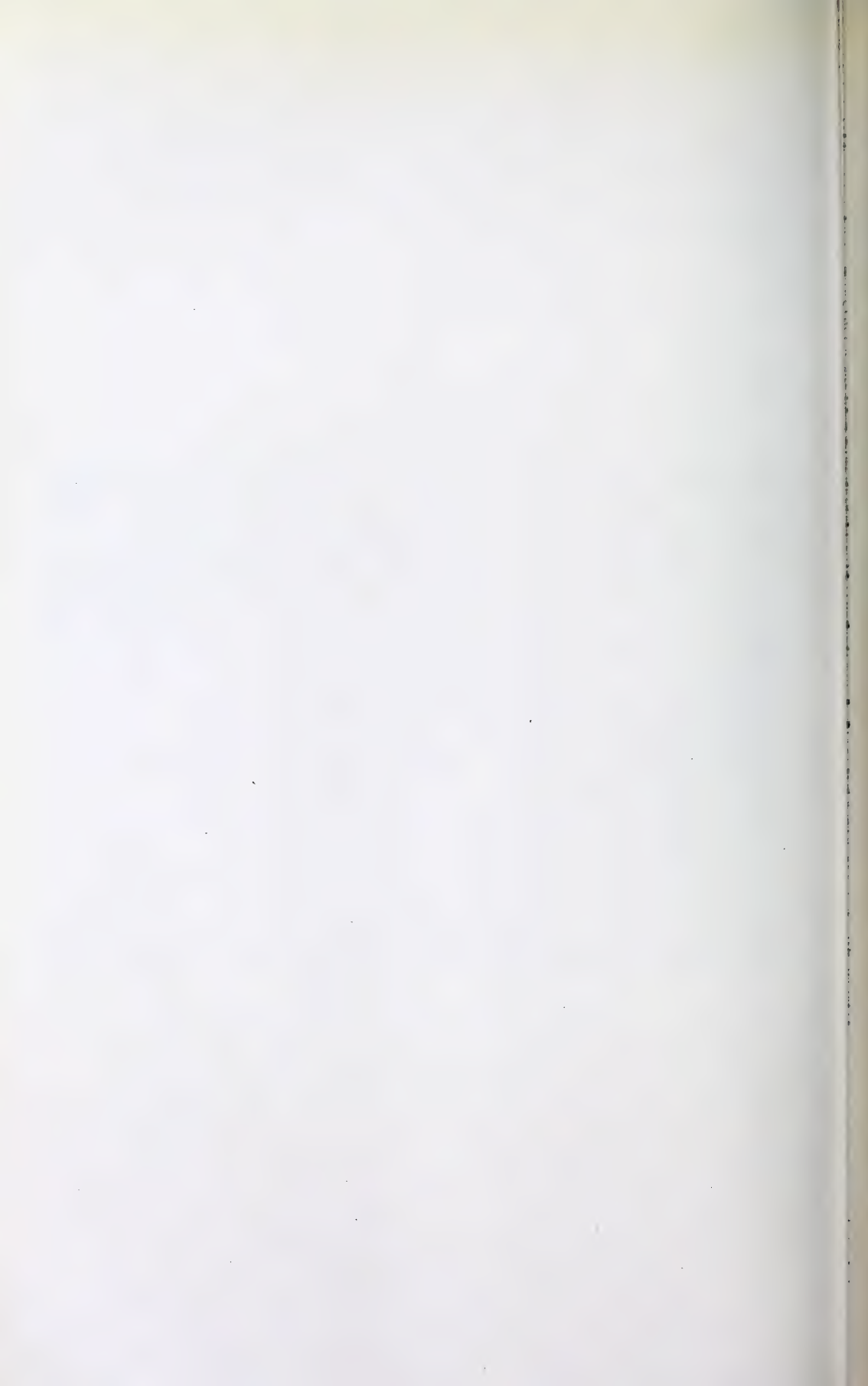
In Dover the first precinct meetings (1748) were held in a school house "near the dwelling house of Joseph Chickering," hence it is probable that the first school was taught prior to that year, while the town was a parish of Dedham.

The first school in what is now Foxboro was taught in 1772, by Jeremiah Fisher, who received six shillings a week. He was succeeded by Lydia Morse, who taught for three shillings a week.

On May 20, 1778, the new Town of Franklin, which had been incorporated in March before, voted two hundred pounds for the support of schools. Schools were taught in Weymouth at an early date, but as late as the year 1800 the appropriation for school purposes was only about five hundred dollars. In the towns incorporated since the Revolution, the schools were established under the laws of the Commonwealth. During the Revolution the school funds in several



ADAMS ACADEMY, QUINCY



of the towns were diverted to military purposes to aid in bringing the War for Independence to a successful issue.

In the chapters relating to the several towns of the county are given statistics showing the status of the public schools in 1916, but it may be well to recapitulate here the educational status of the county as a unit. At the close of the year 1916 there were 192 public school buildings, valued at over twenty millions of dollars; 1,146 teachers were employed during the school year of 1915-16, and the total amount expended by the various towns for educational purposes was \$1,315,975.

#### ADAMS ACADEMY

In 1822 John Adams, ex-President of the United States, gave to the Town of Quincy, in trust, 211 acres of land and two tracts of cedar swamp (number of acres not stated), to found a classical school in his native town. One provision of the gift was: "That all future rents and emoluments arising from said land be applied to the support of a school for the teaching of Greek and Latin languages, and any other languages, arts and sciences, which a majority of the ministers, magistrates, lawyers and physicians inhabiting in said town may advise. . . . That as soon as the funds will be sufficient, a schoolmaster should be procured, learned in the Greek and Roman languages, and if thought advisable, the Hebrew," etc.

It was Mr. Adams' wish that the income should be allowed to accumulate until a sufficient amount was on hand to erect a suitable building for such a school as he had in contemplation. Four efforts were made by the trustees to erect a building before one met with success, viz: in 1832, 1846, 1850 and 1860. The building was commenced in 1861, on the site of the old Hancock residence, and was constructed of stone, with brick trimmings, according to the wish expressed by Mr. Adams before his death. It was completed in 1871, at a cost of \$28,868, and was opened in September, 1872, with W. R. Dimmock, LL.D., in charge. Twenty-three students were enrolled at the opening of the first term. Five years later the number of students was 150.

Mr. Adams' object was to found a school similar to the academies at Exeter, Andover, etc., to prepare boys for college. October 19th is observed by the school as "Founder's Day," Mr. Adams having been born on October 19, 1735.

#### BROOKLINE CLASSICAL SCHOOL

In 1823 the "Brookline Classical School" was incorporated by John Pierce, Richard Sullivan, Elisha Penfiman, Thomas Griggs, Elijah Corey, Ebenezer Heath, Dr. Charles Wild, Augustus Aspinwall, and their "associates and successors." A building was erected on Boylston street, afterward sold to Doctor Shurtleff, and the school was opened with David H. Barlow as the first teacher. He was followed by Gideon F. Thayer. It was continued under the original incorporation until about 1837, when it passed into the hands of George B. Emerson, who conducted a school for boys with varying success for two or three years, when the institution was closed.

## DEAN ACADEMY

At the annual session of the Universalist convention in October, 1864, a committee was appointed, with Rev. A. St. John Chambre, of Stoughton as chairman, "with full discretionary powers to establish a denominational school of the highest grade below colleges." The Town of Stoughton offered a site and \$25,000, but this offer was outbid by Dr. Oliver Dean, of Franklin, who offered a tract of eight or nine acres of land, \$10,000 for buildings, and \$50,000 for a permanent fund.

Doctor Dean's offer was accepted and ground was broken for the building in August, 1866. The corner-stone was laid on May 16, 1867, and the structure was dedicated on May 28, 1868. Its cost was \$154,000. It has a frontage of 220 feet and is 60 feet deep, with two wings, each 44 by 50 feet, all three stories in height. The school was opened, however, before the building was completed, in the vestry of the Universalist Church, the opening day being October 1, 1866. T. G. Senter was the first principal and forty-four students were enrolled.

On July 31, 1872, the academy building was destroyed by fire with a loss of nearly the entire contents. The school was then conducted in the Franklin House until the present building was completed and dedicated on June 24, 1874. The first term of school in the new academy was opened in September of that year. The Dean Academy has always sustained a high reputation as an educational institution and it is now one of the "show places" of Franklin.

## WOODWARD INSTITUTE

The school for girls and young women known as the Woodward Institute is located at Quincy. It was founded by Dr. Ebenezer Woodward, who died without issue in 1869 and left a fund for the establishment of such a school. Ten years later the fund amounted to nearly eighty thousand dollars. One of the provisions of the will of Doctor Woodward was that the minister of the Unitarian Church should be the perpetual chairman of the board of managers. The report of the treasurer of the Woodward fund for 1916 gives the value of the Institute grounds and building as \$58,900, and the total fund as \$364,112.76. The institution employs twelve instructors.

## WELLESLEY COLLEGE

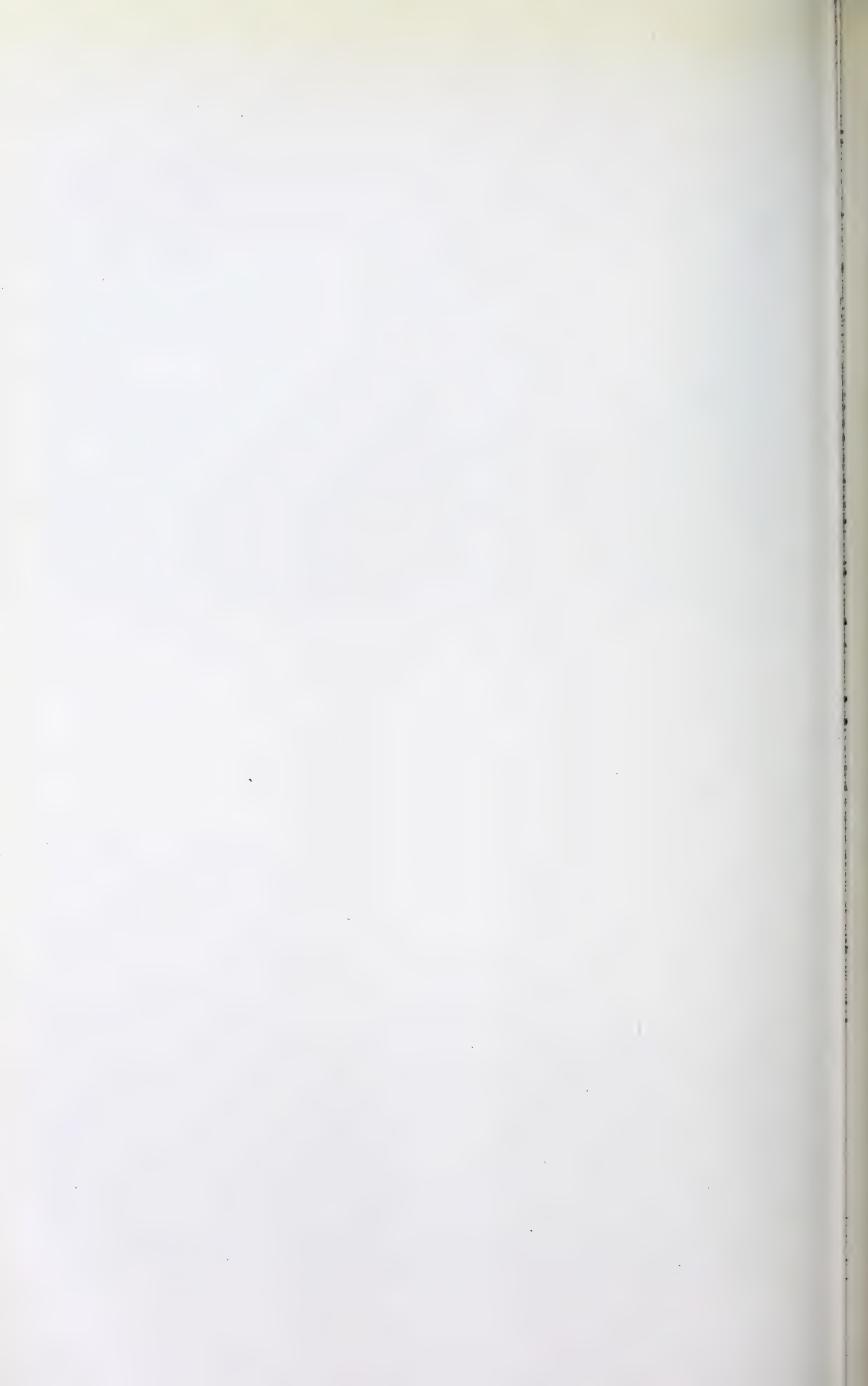
Wellesley College was founded by Henry Fowle Durant. The corner-stone of the first building was laid by Mrs. Durant on August 18, 1871, and on September 14th the corner-stone of the main building was laid. The school was opened on September 8, 1875, with about three hundred students and twenty-nine instructors. Miss Ada J. Howard was the first president of the institution. In 1916 the college enrolled over fifteen hundred students and the faculty numbered nearly three hundred—almost as many as the number of students at the opening in 1875. The principal buildings of Wellesley are the Memorial Chapel, the Library, Music Hall, Billings Hall, Stone Hall, the Farnsworth Art Building, and the "Quadrangle," around which are arranged the new dormitories, the gymnasium, the society houses and the heating and lighting plants. Then there are



COLLEGE HALL, WELLESLEY COLLEGE



MUSIC HALL, WELLESLEY COLLEGE



the "Cottages on the Hill," the whole representing an investment of several millions of dollars.

#### THAYER ACADEMY

Gen. Sylvanus Thayer, of Braintree, died in 1873, and in his will left a fund of \$200,000 "to establish a literary institution of a high grade," on condition that the town would give \$20,000. In the event that Braintree refused to appropriate the required amount, then the Towns of Randolph and Holbrook were to be given the opportunity to secure the school by such an appropriation, and if neither of these towns accepted the offer, the academy was to go to Quincy. Braintree accepted the proposition, voted the \$20,000 and appointed trustees in accordance with the terms of the will.

No movement toward establishment of the school was made for several years. In 1876 the trustees reported that the fund had reached \$260,000, and work was then commenced on a building. The academy stands on a beautiful campus on Washington street, a short distance north of the town hall. The building cost \$60,000 and the first term of school was opened on September 12, 1877.

#### WEYMOUTH AND BRAINTREE ACADEMY

In the latter part of the year 1827 some of the citizens of Weymouth Landing took the first steps toward the establishment of an institution of learning to teach the higher branches. As a result of the agitation the Weymouth and Braintree Academy was incorporated on February 28, 1828, by Dr. Cotton Tufts, Noah Fifield, Joseph Loud and their associates. Capt. Warren Weston donated a site on the Weymouth and Braintree turnpike and a building was erected thereon. The school opened with a Mr. Gregg in charge and soon after a Mr. Goodell was employed as an assistant teacher. These teachers were succeeded in a few months by Samuel T. Worcester and Miss Mary F. R. Wales, who were married in the spring of 1830 and gave up teaching. Calvin E. Park and Miss Lucy M. Barstow then took charge of the school and are believed to be the last teachers employed by the original incorporators. A few terms of private school were then taught in the building by different persons, and in 1833 the building was sold and was converted into a double tenement. It was burned in 1844.

#### UNION TRAINING SCHOOL

The Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth Union Training School was established under the act of March 24, 1881, which provides that: "When three or more cities or towns in each of two or three counties, or in the case of Norfolk, Bristol, Barnstable and Plymouth counties, of four contiguous counties, so require, the county commissioners of such counties shall, at the expense of the same, establish a truant school at a convenient place therein," etc.

Several years passed after the passage of the act before any steps were taken toward the establishment of such an institution in any of the four counties designated. In 1887 the commissioners of Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth counties

joined in a movement for such a school, and on November 21, 1887, the commissioners of Norfolk County issued an order for purchase of the property formerly occupied by the Consumptives' Home in the Town of Walpole. The deed was executed by the trustees of the Consumptives' Home the same day, the consideration being \$11,207.59.

About two years were then spent in preparing the school for the reception of pupils. On November 26, 1889, Aaron R. Morse, of Franklin, was appointed master, and his wife, Sarah G. Morse, was appointed matron and teacher. In 1916 the real estate (land and buildings) belonging to the school was valued at \$21,500 and the personal property at \$4,000. The cost of maintaining the school for that year was \$13,218.25, of which Norfolk County's appropriation was \$4,100. The present superintendent of the school is James H. Craig.

#### AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

The Norfolk County Agricultural School was established under the act of April 21, 1915, the principal provision of which is as follows: "At the next state election there shall be placed upon the official ballots for the County of Norfolk the following question: 'Shall the County of Norfolk authorize the county commissioners to issue bonds of said county to an amount not exceeding \$75,000 for the purpose of establishing an independent agricultural school?'"

It was further provided in the act that, in the event a majority of the voters decided in favor of establishing the school, the governor should, with the advice and consent of the council, appoint four residents of the county to act with the county commissioners as a board of trustees, the persons so appointed to serve without salary, but to be compensated for actual expenses in the performance of their duty. The governor appointed Ernest H. Gilbert, of Stoughton; Guy A. Ham, of Milton; Charles L. Merritt, of South Weymouth; and Patrick O'Loughlin, of Brookline, as the four trustees to act with the county commissioners—Evan F. Richardson, John F. Merrill and Everett M. Bowker.

On May 6, 1916, the board voted unanimously to purchase the Bullard and Ellis properties on Main street, North Walpole, as a site for the school. The sum of \$75,000 authorized by the voters at the preceding election, was then borrowed for the purchase of real estate, buildings, live stock and equipment, and the further sum of \$8,400 was appropriated for the maintenance of the institution. Frederic W. Kingman was employed as director and the school was opened on October 9, 1916, with forty-two pupils enrolled. For the better accommodation of pupils living in the eastern part of the county, the trustees have established a branch in connection with the Weymouth High School. This branch is under the charge of Charles W. Kemp, a graduate of the New Hampshire Agricultural College. In his first report Mr. Kingman states the object of the school "to prepare its students in the most practical and scientific manner to become intelligent and efficient farmers."

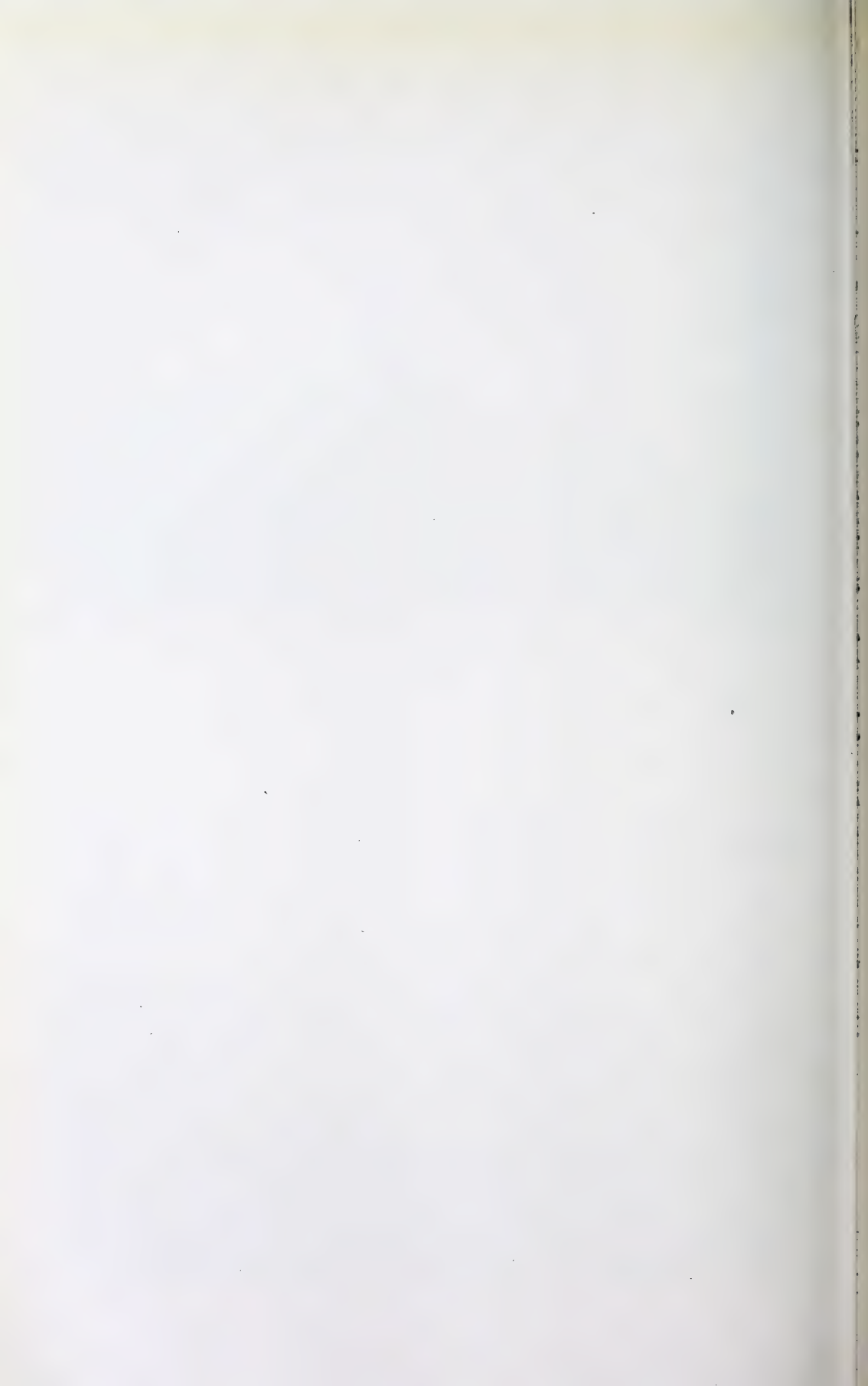
The cost of maintenance the first year was \$8,529.18, of which the United States Government contributed \$750 and the Massachusetts Agricultural College \$250, making the net cost to the county and state \$7,529.18, one-half of which the state assumes. In their report for the year ending on Decem-



POMEROY HALL, WELLESLEY COLLEGE



LIBRARY, WELLESLEY COLLEGE



ber 31, 1916, the county commissioners give the value of the property owned by the school (including the cash balance) as \$75,000.

## MISCELLANEOUS

There were at different times other private schools in the county, but they perished without leaving much of their history behind them. In a number of the Catholic parishes are parochial schools, maintained by the church and taught by the sisters of some of the Catholic orders.

## CHAPTER XLVI

### NORFOLK COUNTY PRESS

THE COLUMBIAN MINERVA—EARLY DEDHAM NEWSPAPERS—QUINCY PATRIOT—THE AURORA—EARLY NEWSPAPERS OF FOXBORO—RANDOLPH—STOUGHTON—WEYMOUTH — BROOKLINE — FRANKLIN — NEEDHAM — WALPOLE — BRAINTREE — MILTON—NEWSPAPERS IN 1917—LIST ARRANGED BY TOWNS.

The first newspaper in Norfolk County was the *Columbian Minerva*, which was located at Dedham. Concerning this paper Herman Mann, in his *Annals of Dedham*, says: "*Columbian Minerva* commenced in October, 1796. In December, 1797, the printing establishment was purchased by Herman Mann, Sr., who then became the proprietor and editor of the paper. It was discontinued September 4, 1804, when its editor in his valedictory address to the patrons of the paper remarks—'Few persons of the present day are willing to labor, either with hands or head, without compensation, and, generally, what is called a handsome profit. While I am ready, and do, from my heart, lament my inabilities as an editor to make it (the *Minerva*) of the utmost utility—I have to deplore the want of encouragement to bring every latent spark of genius into its best exercise.'"

It is not definitely known who were the founders of the *Minerva*, but the credit has been given to Nathaniel and Benjamin Heaton. In the *Minerva* of June 12, 1800, was the following obituary notice: "Died, at Wrentham, Mr. Benjamin Heaton, formerly one of the editors of the *Minerva*," and the author of the *Annals of Dedham* thinks it probable that Herman Mann purchased the paper from the Heatons.

After the suspension of the *Minerva* in September, 1804, the county was without a newspaper for about seven months. On May 14, 1805, Herman Mann again ventured into the field with the *Norfolk Repository*. It was published regularly every week until September 17, 1805, when the "post-rider" suddenly absconded with a considerable portion of the funds belonging to the establishment and the publication of the *Repository* was "unavoidably suspended." It was revived on March 25, 1806, and was then published in an eight page quarto form until 1811.

Jabez Chickering started the *Dedham Gazette*, with Theron Metcalf as editor. On January 1, 1819, the outfit was purchased by Herman Mann, Jr., and William H. Mann, who continued the publication for about six months, when the *Gazette* gave up the ghost for want of adequate support, the owners devoting their time and attention to job printing.

The next newspaper in the county was the *Village Register*, the first number of which appeared on June 9, 1820. Asa Gowen was the proprietor and the paper was printed by the Mann Brothers. On September 15, 1820, Mr. Gowen sold

the Register to Jonathan H. Cobb, who published it for about a year. Barnum Field was then the proprietor until October 18, 1822, when he sold to the Mann Brothers. The paper was discontinued in November, 1829.

About a month after the last number of the Village Register was issued, John B. Derby started the Norfolk County Republican, which was printed by the Manns. It lasted only one year.

On the last day of the year 1830 the Dedham Patriot made its appearance, published by H. & W. H. Mann. The latter soon afterward sold his interest to John B. Tolman, and the paper was published by Mann & Tolman until August 26, 1831, when Herman Mann became the sole proprietor. By this time the population of the county had grown so that a local newspaper received better support, and the Patriot met with better success than any of its predecessors. On January 1, 1836, the establishment passed into the hands of S. C. & E. Mann, who employed John S. Houghton as editor. In October following the name was changed to Dedham Patriot and Canton Gazette. Other changes in ownership and name followed until in June, 1842, when it was called the Norfolk County American. Edward L. Keyes came into possession in May, 1844, and two years later the plant was removed to Roxbury.

In 1831 L. Powers began the publication of the Independent Politician and Workingmen's Advocate, the first number appearing on New Year's day. Joseph H. Wilder was the editor. The following fall Ebenezer Fish purchased the paper, and in July, 1832, the name was changed to Norfolk Advertiser and Independent Politician. On April 2, 1836, it appeared simply as the Norfolk Advertiser. Elbridge G. Robinson became the proprietor on August 1, 1837, and on February 1, 1839, the name was changed to the Norfolk Democrat—or rather the Advertiser was discontinued and the Democrat commenced. In 1854 it was consolidated with the Dedham Gazette, then published in Hyde Park by Henry O. Hildreth.

On January 1, 1837, the Quincy Patriot entered the journalistic field. It was a small sheet, 20 by 30 inches, four pages, and was started by John A. Green and Edward A. Osborne. The latter remained with the paper only about three months, when Mr. Green became the proprietor and continued at the head of the paper until July 1, 1851, when he disposed of it to Gideon F. Thayer and George White, who increased the size of the sheet to 22 by 32 inches. Two years later the paper was repurchased by Mr. Green, who conducted it until his death in 1861. George W. Prescott then formed a partnership with Mrs. Green, under the firm name of Green & Prescott, which lasted for over a quarter of a century. The Patriot (now the Patriot-Ledger) is the oldest paper in Norfolk County. It is an independent paper and is published every afternoon except Sunday, with George T. Magee as editor and the George W. Prescott Company, publishers. The Wednesday and Saturday editions are issued as a semi-weekly.

The Quincy Aurora was started by Charles Clapp on January 1, 1843, and continued for about three years, and the Quincy Free Press, started in 1878, has also gone to join the "innumerable caravan."

J. E. & Edson Carpenter ran a paper called the Salmagundi Journal at Foxboro from November, 1849, to January, 1850. The Country Times, another Foxboro newspaper, was published by Henry C. Buffum from April 12, 1856, to April 5, 1857. In the latter year the Home Library was issued for about six

months, under the editorship of John Littlefield. The Foxboro Journal was edited by Robert W. Carpenter and published by James M. Stewart from February, 1873, to September, 1878.

In March, 1873, the Foxboro Times was started by E. W. Clarke, R. W. Carpenter and others and ran with varying success until 1884, when it was succeeded by the Reporter, which is now published as an independent newspaper every Saturday by J. H. Alden, with G. M. Barron as editor.

Randolph's first newspaper—the Transcript and Advertiser—began its existence on March 14, 1857, with Samuel P. Brown as editor and proprietor. It was discontinued in August, 1862, but was revived until October, 1863, when it was again discontinued. On January 7, 1865, it was again resuscitated and the following October Mr. Brown sold the establishment to Joseph Jones, who kept it but a short time. After several changes in ownership, D. H. Huxford became the proprietor in March, 1873, when the name was changed to the East Norfolk Register. Mr. Huxford continued to publish the paper for several years, when he became interested in other enterprises and it was discontinued.

The Stoughton Sentinel, now the second oldest paper in the county, was launched on November 10, 1860, by William H. Jewell. The first number was printed in the Town of Canton. At that time the country was in a state of turmoil over the question of secession. Mr. Jewell took the position that the Southern States ought to be allowed to withdraw in peace from the Union. A sentiment of that kind was not popular in Massachusetts and the Sentinel was soon forced to suspend for want of patronage. William W. & C. A. Wood then purchased the outfit and on November 7, 1863, the first number of the Sentinel under the new management came from the press. In October, 1864, when the call came for volunteers for one hundred days, both the editors enlisted and the Sentinel was suspended during the time they were in the service. In September, 1865, it was again suspended for a short time, when Pratt & Hasty purchased the paper and resumed publication, printing it in Randolph. In September, 1882, L. W. Standish took charge of the editorial department and later became the owner. He is still the editor and proprietor and the Sentinel is issued every Saturday as a Republican newspaper.

In 1867 C. G. Easterbrook began the publication of the Weymouth Gazette. Mr. Easterbrook's success induced others to enter the newspaper field and the Courier was started in 1876, in East Weymouth, by Jones & Company. It lasted only about a year, and in 1877 the Weymouth Advance was launched by C. F. David. Its office was in East Weymouth and it was continued for about two years. A paper called the Transcript was consolidated with the Gazette, and the Gazette and Transcript is now published every Friday as an independent newspaper under the editorial management of Frank F. Prescott, the Gazette & Transcript Publishing Company being the publishers.

Bradford Kingman issued the first number of the Brookline Transcript on October 15, 1870. The last number of this paper was dated May 31, 1873. On July 4, 1873, Dr. N. C. Towle started the Brookline Independent. It was published by a club, which had a special object in view, and lived but a short time.

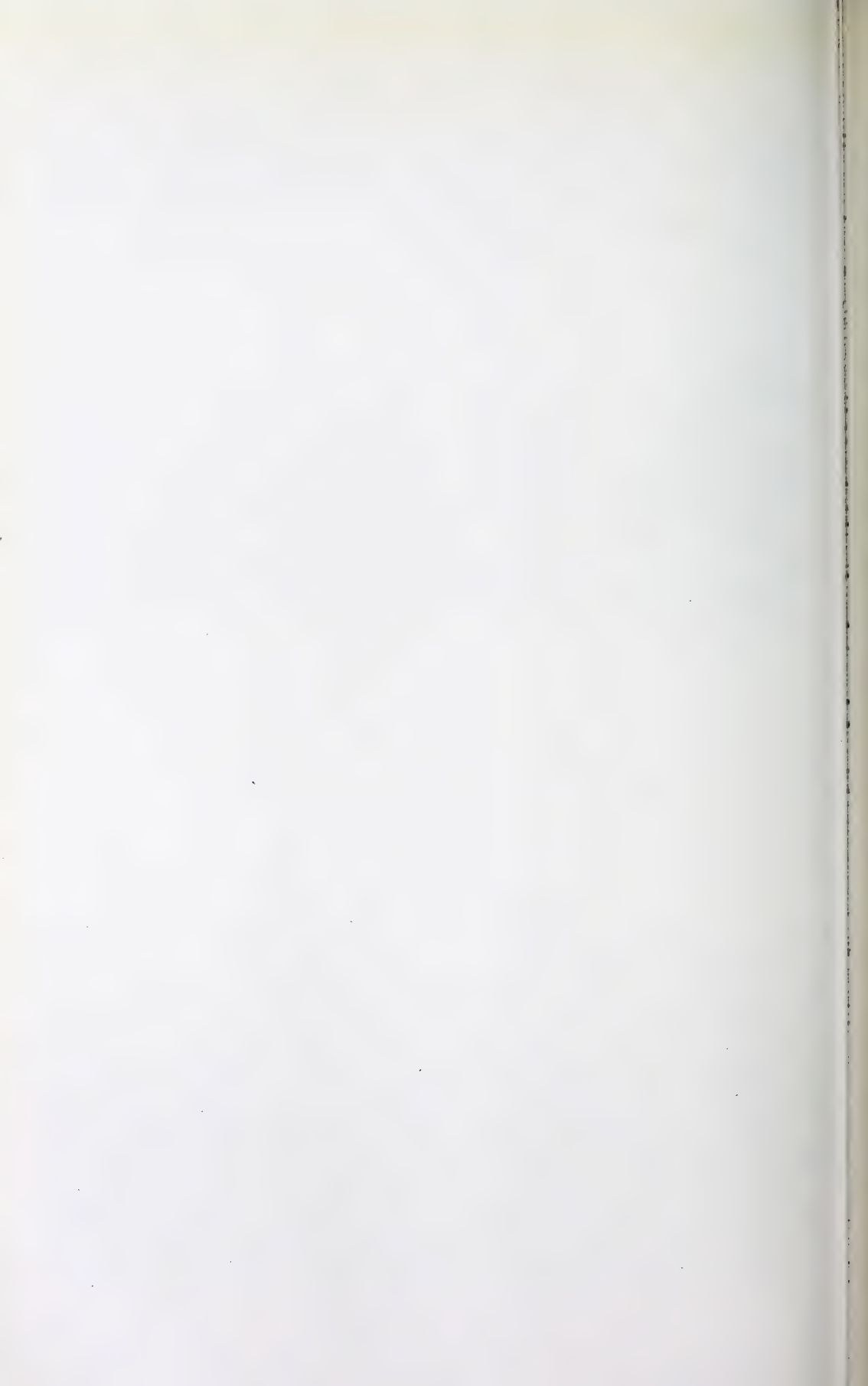
The first newspaper in Franklin was the Register, which was started in October, 1872, by James M. Stewart, who continued its publication until his removal from the town in 1881. Three years before the suspension of the Register, R. E.



NORWOOD PRESS, NORWOOD



PLIMPTON PRESS, NORWOOD



Capron began the publication of the Franklin Sentinel. In 1883 it passed into the hands of Houston & Lincoln, who greatly improved the appearance and contents of the paper. The Sentinel has maintained its existence through various ups and downs and is now published on Tuesdays and Fridays by Carl B. Johnson.

The Needham Chronicle has a history somewhat different from any other newspaper in the county. It was established in 1874 by George W. Southworth, who is still the editor and proprietor. When first started it bore the name of Needham Chronicle and Wellesley Advertiser. Mr. Southworth was a journalist of some experience, which doubtless accounts for the successful career of the Chronicle. When the Town of Wellesley was incorporated in 1881, the words "and Wellesley Advertiser" were dropped from the heading and a separate edition was published under that name for some time. The Chronicle is now issued every Saturday.

James M. Stewart, editor of the Franklin Register, published a paper called the Walpole Standard in the early '70s. It lived to start on its eighth volume, when it was discontinued. Other Walpole newspapers of the last century were: The Enterprise, started by E. H. Hosmer in March, 1878; the Norfolk County Tribune, which succeeded the Enterprise in June, 1881; the Walpole Star, started in June, 1882, by Charles J. McPherson, and the Standard and Enterprise which was published for a short time in the '80s. The Walpole Enterprise of the present day is an edition of the Foxboro Reporter.

The first newspaper in Braintree was called the Reporter and was started by Charles G. Easterbrook of the Weymouth Gazette. It lasted not quite two years and left but little history. The Old Colony Bulletin began its career in April, 1875, with the name of C. F. David at the head of the editorial columns. He sold the outfit in October following and it was removed to Abington. Mr. David later started the Weymouth Advance, which was not a successful venture and the paper lived but about two years, as already stated.

In 1878 Daniel H. Huxford, editor and proprietor of the East Norfolk Register, of Randolph, began the publication of the Braintree Observer, which is still in existence. It is now published every Saturday as an independent newspaper by the George W. Prescott Publishing Company of Quincy.

On April 29, 1882, Frederick P. Fairfield, a Boston man, issued the first number of the Milton News. Some six months later the paper was purchased by W. W. Woodward, who conducted it for a few years, when it went to the wall.

#### NEWSPAPERS IN 1917

According to Ayer's Newspaper Directory for 1917, there are seven towns in Norfolk County that have no newspapers published within their limits, viz: Bellingham, Dover, Medfield, Norfolk, Plainville, Westwood and Wrentham. Of the newspapers in the other towns, the Braintree Observer, Foxboro Reporter, Franklin Sentinel, Needham Chronicle, Quincy Patriot-Ledger, Stoughton Sentinel, Walpole Enterprise and Weymouth Gazette and Transcript have already been described.

The Braintree Bee, an independent weekly, was established in 1894, and is now published every Saturday by the firm of Pratt & Pratt, editors and proprietors.

The Brookline Chronicle made its appearance on May 9, 1874, with the name of W. H. Hutcheson as editor and proprietor. In July, 1875, it was purchased by Wing & Arthur. In January, 1877, Charles M. Vincent became the owner, but sold it about a year later to Alexander S. Arthur, who in July, 1879, took Charles A. W. Spencer into partnership. The Chronicle is now published every Saturday as an independent newspaper by the Chronicle Publishing Company, with Arthur W. Spencer as editor.

In 1903 the Brookline Townsman made its bow to the public as an independent weekly. It is now published by the Brookline Press (incorporated) and the editor is V. G. Byers.

N. T. Merritt, a journalist of considerable experience in that line, established the Canton Journal in December, 1876. About four months later he sold out to D. S. Hasty of Easton. E. B. Thorndike became the proprietor in 1880, and in May, 1882, the office and printing establishment were removed to the "old school house," where commodious quarters were obtained and the paper was greatly improved. The Journal is now published by the Canton Publishing Company (incorporated), with Herbert Mosman as editor. An edition called the Easton Bulletin is issued every week for North Easton.

Cohasset has three newspapers, though none is published in the town. The Cohasset Citizen is an edition of the "East Wind," published at Hull; the Cottager is an edition published by the Abington Advertiser; and the Sentinel is published by the South Shore Publishing Company of Boston, which publishes a number of newspapers for the small towns along the coast.

The Dedham Transcript was established in 1870. Some years later the business was incorporated under the name of the Transcript Press, which now publishes the Transcript as an independent newspaper every Saturday. An edition for local distribution is also issued by the Transcript Press under the name of the Standard.

An independent newspaper called the Holbrook Times began its career in 1889. It is now published every Saturday, following the original policy of independence, by John King, who is both editor and proprietor.

The only newspaper in Millis is an edition of the Milford Gazette, which is issued as an independent sheet every Friday, devoted largely to the local news of the town.

Charles F. Marden is the present editor and proprietor of the Milton Record, which was established in 1904. It is published every Saturday as an independent weekly. In Needham, besides the Chronicle already mentioned, there is a weekly independent newspaper called the Recorder. It was founded in 1895 and is now published every Friday by Ellis S. Tisdale and Robert Coupe, editors and proprietors.

Norwood has a live weekly newspaper called the Messenger. It was established in 1895 and is now published by Ambrose Brothers, A. N. Ambrose being the editor. The Messenger is issued every Saturday and is devoted chiefly to local news and matters pertaining to Norwood and vicinity.

In 1909 a second daily paper made its appearance in Quincy. It is called the Quincy Daily Telegram and is published every afternoon except Sunday. J. D. Smith is the present editor and the paper is published by W. G. Spargo.

There is also in Quincy a monthly publication called the Granite Cutters'

Journal. It was founded in 1877 by the Granite Cutters' International Association and is published by that organization in the interests of the workmen in the granite industry. The present editor is James Duncan.

In 1914 the Randolph News Publishing Company began the publication of an independent weekly newspaper called the Randolph News. It is issued every Friday and has a good local patronage.

Sharon has two weekly newspapers—the Advocate and the News. The former was started in 1881 by William B. Wickes, who continued to publish the paper for several years. It is now issued every Saturday as an independent newspaper by the Sharon Publishing Company. The News was founded in 1914 and is also published on Saturday as an independent weekly by the News Publishing Company, with Mary A. Mahoney as editor.

The South Weymouth Times was founded in 1911 and is now published every Friday by Sydney Rogers Cook. It is devoted chiefly to local news and interests. The South Weymouth Sun is an edition of the Abington Advertiser.

M. W. Hawley is the publisher and William H. Davis the editor of the Stoughton News, which began its career in 1911. It is now published every Friday as an independent weekly.

The Wellesley Townsman was established in 1906 and is now issued every Friday by the Wellesley Publishing Company. It is purely local in character and devoted to Wellesley interests. The Wellesley Review is an edition of the Natick Bulletin and is issued weekly. In 1901 the students of Wellesley College began the publication of a paper called the Wellesley College News. It is issued every Thursday during the college year and is edited by the students.

West Medway has a weekly edition of the Milford Gazette that is devoted to Medway interests, but no paper is published in the town proper. The South Shore Newspaper Company of Boston issues a weekly called the Weymouth Enterprise, for circulation in that town.

## CHAPTER XLVII

### LIBRARIES AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES—A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN EVERY TOWN IN NORFOLK COUNTY—BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH—HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND THEIR OBJECT — DEDHAM — CANTON — WEYMOUTH — MEDFIELD — HOLBROOK — FOXBORO—WALPOLE—MEDWAY—MILTON—QUINCY.

For more than a century the State of Massachusetts, by liberal and appropriate legislation, has sought to encourage the establishment of free public libraries. The act of March 3, 1798, provided "That any seven or more persons capable of contracting, in any towns or districts in this Commonwealth, who have or shall become Proprietors in common of any Library, may form themselves into a Society or Body Politic for the express purposes of holding, increasing, preserving and using such Library," etc.

Since that time a number of laws relating to public libraries have been enacted. By the act of May 28, 1890, the governor was authorized to appoint a board of library commissioners, to consist of five residents of the Commonwealth, whose duty it should be to advise the librarian or trustees of any public library in regard to the selection of books, and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or management of the library. The board was also "authorized and directed to expend, upon the application of the board of trustees of any town having no free public library owned and controlled by the town, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for books for any such town entitled to the benefits of this act; such books to be used by the trustees for the purpose of establishing a free public library, and said commissioners shall select and purchase all books to be provided as aforesaid."

Under the provisions of this act free public libraries have multiplied in the State of Massachusetts until nearly every town in the state has an institution of this nature. Every town in Norfolk County has a public library, a majority of them having been established before the passage of the act of 1890. On May 6, 1892, an act was approved giving one hundred dollars' worth of books to any town whose valuation does not exceed \$600,000, which maintained a free public library prior to the passage of the act of 1890, "and which has fully complied or hereafter fully complies with the provisions of said act." A few of the towns in Norfolk County have received state aid under the provisions of this act. In this chapter are given brief histories of the free public libraries in the several towns of the county. For the convenience of the reader these histories have been arranged in the alphabetical order of the towns.

## AVON

At the town meeting held in March, 1892, the citizens of Avon voted to accept the provisions of the act of 1890, and the following June the town received \$100 worth of books from the state for the purpose of founding a free public library. Subsequently Lucius Clapp, of Randolph, gave the library \$500 for the purchase of books that "shall be instructive and of good moral tone," on the condition that the library establish a reading room open to the public on certain evenings each week. The library is kept in the town hall. In 1916 it numbered 3,710 volumes and had an income of \$465.77. During the year 13,899 books were taken from the library by the people of the town for home reading.

## BELLINGHAM

In 1894 this town accepted the provisions of the act of 1890 and received \$100 worth of books from the state as a nucleus of a free public library. That year the town appropriated twenty-five dollars for the library, but the next year, and for several years thereafter, the appropriation was seventy-five dollars. Nearly one hundred volumes were donated by the Bellingham United Library Association. The report of the state library commission for 1916 gives the number of volumes as 3,075 and the income as \$350.41. The trustees for 1916 were: Laurence Mason, A. Evelyn Sackett, Susie C. Fairbanks, Alice A. Burr, Olive C. Cook and Bertha Franklin, the last named being the librarian.

## BRAINTREE

At a special town meeting held in Braintree on May 16, 1870, the following communication was received from Gen. Sylvanus Thayer:

"To the Citizens of the Town of Braintree:

"Gentlemen—To establish a free public library in the town, I propose to erect a fire-proof building, suitable for the purpose, towards the cost of which the town shall contribute the sum of ten thousand dollars, the amount needed to complete the building to be paid by me. And I will loan to the town the said sum of ten thousand dollars, for such time as it shall require it, to comply with this offer, at six per cent interest. Upon the acceptance of this proposition by the town, I will give the further sum of ten thousand dollars, as a permanent fund, the income of which shall annually be devoted to the maintenance of said library. Should the town take favorable action upon this matter, I shall be happy to confer with a committee with reference to the immediate consummation of the project.

"Respectfully,

"S. THAYER."

The acceptance of the offer was by an almost unanimous vote, and Asa French, Edward Avery, Francis A. Hobart, Charles H. Dow and Alva Morrison were appointed the committee to confer with General Thayer, and were given full power to act in the premises. General Thayer did not live to see the library building completed, but the executors of his will carried out his generous offer

by setting apart the sum of twenty thousand dollars for the erection of the building and the support of the library. The cost of the building was \$32,500. It was opened to the public on September 1, 1874. According to the library commission's report for 1916, the library had 16,822 volumes on the shelves and an income of \$3,088.76, of which \$1,550 was appropriated by the town and the remainder came from the endowment fund of General Thayer.

#### BROOKLINE

As early as 1825 a library association was organized in Brookline, with Rev. John Pierce as president. Membership fees were fixed at five dollars a year for the first two years and two dollars a year after that time. The library was kept in the house of the librarian and was open on the first and third Saturdays of each month, from three to four o'clock in the afternoon for the exchange of books. In 1827 a catalogue was issued showing nearly three hundred volumes. After a few years of comparative success, the library gradually declined and finally ceased to exist.

The question of establishing a free public library came before the town meeting on March 16, 1857, and a committee was appointed to report at an adjourned meeting on the 30th of the same month. The committee was composed of Edward A. Dana, Samuel Philbrick, George F. Homer, Charles Follen and Abijah W. Goddard. At the adjourned meeting this committee reported in favor of the project and upon its recommendation the town voted for the support of the library the highest sum that could be raised by taxation. The income the first year was \$934. A room was provided in the town hall and the library was opened for the delivery of books on December 2, 1857. Three additional rooms in the town building were occupied as the library grew and it became necessary to procure larger and more suitable quarters. In 1867 the town voted to purchase a tract of ground on Washington street and plans for a library building were soon afterward approved. This building was completed at a cost of about forty-five thousand dollars and was opened to the public on October 13, 1869. In 1888 a wing was added at a cost of \$16,500 and the reading room was added in 1892 at a cost of \$15,840. Besides the liberal appropriations made from time to time by the town, the library has been aided by the donations and bequests of public spirited citizens, amounting in the aggregate to nearly twenty thousand dollars. The reading room is called "Gardner Hall," in honor of John L. Gardner, who gave the library \$10,000 in January, 1871. At the close of the year 1916 the Brookline library numbered 89,663 volumes and the income for the year was \$34,862.40. During the year 230,913 volumes were circulated for home use.

#### CANTON

Through the efforts of the Grand Army of the Republic, a free public library was established in Canton in 1874. A small agricultural library in the town was absorbed by the new institution. George E. Downes left a bequest of \$5,000, that portion of the income not used in caring for his burial lot in the cemetery to be given to the public library. In 1898 Miss Caroline Tucker Downes left by

will a fund of \$2,000, the income of which is devoted to the purchase of books. For many years the library was kept in rooms upon the first floor of the memorial hall, but in 1901 Augustus Hemenway erected and furnished a neat and substantial building, which, together with the site, he donated to the town for library purposes. At the close of the year 1916 the Canton library contained 18,619 volumes and the income for the year was \$5,024.86. Lucy D. Döwnes was at that time the librarian.

## COHASSET

The Cohasset Free Public Library dates its beginning from March, 1878, when Rev. Joseph Osgood, in his report as superintendent of schools, urged the establishment of such an institution, and induced the town to vote an appropriation of \$300 for that purpose, payable when a like sum had been raised by private subscription. The teachers of the town went to work and in a short time the needed sum of \$300 was obtained. The library was then organized and was further aided by the citizens by the donation of books and money. Dr. David W. Cheever, of Boston, a summer resident of Cohasset, gave a fund of \$300, called the "Marion Cheever Fund," as a memorial to his deceased daughter, to be invested in books of a scientific character at the rate of thirty dollars annually. For about twenty years the library was kept in rooms upon the first floor of the town hall, when it was consolidated with the Paul Pratt Memorial Library, the history of which is as follows:

Paul Pratt was born in Cohasset on May 17, 1788, and died there on August 31, 1853. He left considerable property to his two daughters—Harriot E. and Sarah S. The latter was one of the trustees of the Cohasset Public Library from the time of its organization until her death in 1896. Harriot E. Pratt died on April 19, 1898, and in her will provided that one-half of her estate, except certain real estate, should be paid to the chairman of the board of selectmen of the Town of Cohasset, the pastor of the First Parish Church, the pastor of the Second Congregational Church, Randolph Knapp and James Longley, and two others to be selected by these five, the fund to be used for the establishment of a free public library to be known as the "Paul Pratt Memorial Library." The first meeting of the trustees was held on February 3, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Snow gave a site on Main street and the building was finished in December, 1902. Then the trustees of the Paul Pratt Memorial and the Cohasset Public libraries came to an agreement to work together and the old library was moved out of the town hall into the new building.

In August, 1916, the trustees leased quarters in the building of the Beechwood Improvement Association and established a branch of the library at Beechwood. The library has the income from \$14,500 invested in interest bearing securities, and the town appropriation in 1916 was \$2,150. At the close of that year the librarian, Miss Sarah B. Collier, reported 15,575 volumes.

## DEDHAM

A social library was organized in Dedham on November 24, 1854, under the general laws of the state in force at that time. Carlos Slafter and Dr. Joseph P.

Paine raised about thirteen hundred dollars by subscription; by payment of five dollars any one could become a shareholder and each member of the association paid a varying sum annually toward the library's support. A circulating library belonging to Elbridge G. Robinson, editor of the *Norfolk Democrat*, was purchased for \$200, and the institution was opened on February 1, 1855, in a house next to the insurance building and Dr. Samuel Adams, a dentist who lived in the house, was the first librarian. After a time persons who were not members were admitted upon the payment of a certain sum annually. Interest in the library increased and about 1870 a movement was started for the establishment of a public library which should be free to all the inhabitants. Lack of funds was the principal obstacle to the project. The women of the town held a successful "fair," from which was realized the sum of \$4,000 to be used for the support of the new library.

On March 24, 1871, the Dedham Public Library and Reading Room was incorporated by an act of the Legislature. In the act Waldo Coburn, Thomas L. Wakefield, Edward Stimson, Edmund Quincy, William Chickering, Erastus Worthington, Alfred Hewins, Henry O. Hildreth "and their associates and successors," were given power to hold in trust real and personal property not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in value, exclusive of books, papers and works of art. It was also provided in the act that "so long as said corporation shall allow the inhabitants of Dedham free access to its library and reading room, under reasonable regulations, said town may annually appropriate and pay said corporation a sum not exceeding one dollar on each of its ratable polls."

On November 17, 1871, the old Dedham Library Association voted unanimously to transfer the books and other property of that organization to the new corporation and the 2,977 volumes of the old social library became the nucleus of the new public library, which was opened on February 24, 1872, in a room on the corner of High and Court streets. Charles Bullard in his will gave \$3,000 to the library, the income to be used in the purchase of books. Henry O. Hildreth, Ebenezer Wright, George E. Hatton, William Ames, John Bullard, Dr. Henry P. Quincy and several other citizens gave books, amounting in the aggregate to nearly two thousand volumes.

Miss Hannah Shuttleworth died on February 22, 1886, and left a legacy of \$10,000 for the erection of a library building. To this were added the following gifts: Albert W. Nickerson, \$5,000; George A. Nickerson, \$1,000; Joseph W. Clark, \$1,000; Stephen M. Weld, \$500; Henry P. Quincy, \$200; A. W. Lamson, \$100; John R. Bullard, \$469.49, and the legacy of \$10,000 left by John Bullard, making a total of \$28,269.49. Later the trustees voted to add \$4,000 from the general fund. The lot on the corner of Church and Norfolk streets was purchased in April, 1886, and the building was opened to the public on November 22, 1888. The total cost of building and grounds was \$35,385.75.

By an act of the Legislature, approved on April 1, 1889, the trustees transferred the entire library to the town, on condition that "the town will forever maintain the same as a free public library." The condition was accepted by the town and since that time Dedham has been the owner of the institution. The number of volumes at the close of the year 1916 was nearly twenty-six thousand, and the circulation during the year was over seventy-one thousand volumes.

## DOVER

In March, 1894, the Dover town meeting voted \$200 for the purchase of books for the purpose of founding a free public library, and a similar sum was raised by subscription. Later in the year the state library commission added \$100 worth of books under the act of 1890 and at a special town meeting the sum of \$350 was appropriated to furnish a suitable room in the town hall. The library was opened to the public on December 22, 1894, with 498 volumes on the shelves. According to the report of the state library commission for 1916, the Dover Library then numbered 5,718 volumes and reported an income of \$805.

## FOXBORO

On March 20, 1871, the citizens of Foxboro voted to establish a free public library, to be known as the "Boyden Public Library," in honor of Uriah A. Boyden, a native of the town, who gave \$1,000 toward the enterprise. Mr. Boyden also provided for an annuity of \$100 for the support of the library, which also receives annually the income of \$500 known as the "Carpenter Fund." The building occupied by the library was erected in 1868 as a memorial hall at a cost of \$13,000. In 1897 two wings were added, each with accommodations for 1,500 volumes. The cost of these improvements was about two thousand dollars. At the close of the year 1916 the library numbered about forty-five hundred volumes and during the year circulated nearly twelve thousand. The town appropriation for the year was \$900.

## FRANKLIN

To the Town of Franklin belongs the honor of having the oldest library in Norfolk County. In March, 1785, the Congregational Church there was erecting a new house of worship and wrote to Benjamin Franklin, after whom the town was named and who was then United States minister to France, asking him to donate a bell for the church. The letter was written by Jonathan Williams, a nephew of Dr. Franklin. Under date of March 18, 1785, Doctor Franklin wrote as follows to his friend, Rev. Richard Price of London:

"Passy, France, 18 March, 1785. "

"Dear Friend:—My nephew, Mr. Williams, will have the honor of delivering you this line. It is to request from you a list of books, to the value of about twenty-five pounds, such as are most proper to inculcate principles of sound religion and just government. A new town in the State of Massachusetts having done me the honor of naming itself after me, and proposing to build a steeple to their meeting house if I would give them a bell, I have advised the sparing themselves the expense of a steeple for the present, and that they would accept of books instead of a bell, sense being preferable to sound. These are, therefore, intended as the commencement of a little parochial library, for the use of a society of intelligent, respectable farmers, such as our country people generally consist of. Besides your own works, I would only mention, on the recommendation of my sister, Stennett's 'Discourses on Personal Religion,' which may be one book of the number if you know and approve it.

"With the highest esteem and respect, I am ever, my dear friend, yours most affectionately,

"B. FRANKLIN."

The collection of books selected by Mr. Price and paid for by Doctor Franklin number 116 volumes, not one of which was fiction and scarcely any of less solidity than "Blackstone's Commentaries," so the people of Franklin certainly got "sense instead of sound." The receipt of the books was a memorable event in the town. Rev. Nathaniel Emmons, pastor of the church that had asked for a bell, preached a sermon entitled "The Dignity of Man," which was afterward printed and dedicated "To His Excellency, Benjamin Franklin, President of the State of Pennsylvania, the ornament of genius, the patron of science and the best of men."

Several years after the Franklin collection was received, a social library was founded in connection with it. In the course of time the books supplied through the generosity of Doctor Franklin became obsolete and were rarely read. For a long time both the Franklin and the social libraries remained practically uncared for and became almost unknown. About 1869 two of the citizens of the town offered to give \$100 each toward the establishment of a new library. Natives of the town who had become non-residents, were appealed to for subscriptions to the fund and several of them responded, about four hundred dollars being thus received. The Franklin Library Association (a stock company) was then organized and the books remaining of the Franklin collection were turned over to the new association for preservation.

Not long after this the entire library was given to and accepted by the town, since which time it has been supported by the town appropriation and an income of \$350 annually from a fund. The library building is the gift of Mrs. A. W. Peirce and Mrs. A. D. Thayer, daughters of the late Joseph G. Ray. In 1916 the library numbered 9,723 volumes and reported to the state library commission an income of \$1,757. It is now known as the Ray Memorial Library.

#### HOLBROOK

On December 9, 1871, more than two months before the Town of Holbrook was created by act of the Legislature, Elisha N. Holbrook made a proposition at a meeting of citizens that, in the event the Town of Randolph was divided and a new town established, he would give to the said new town \$50,000, one-half of which was to be used in the erection of a town hall and library building, \$10,000 for a public library, and the remainder for the liquidation of the town debt. The Town of Holbrook was incorporated on February 29, 1872, Mr. Holbrook having died on the 5th of that month, though he made provision in his will for carrying out his proposal of the preceding December.

In 1873 a town hall was built on Franklin street, at a cost of \$35,000, and the following year the public library was established in rooms upon the first floor of the building. Early on the morning of December 25, 1877, fire broke out in the town hall and the library, which was in the rear part of the building, was destroyed. Insurance to the amount of \$3,500 was received, an entire new collection of books bought, and when the new town hall, on the site of the former one, was opened in 1879 the library was again ready for the public patronage.

On February 28, 1898, the town hall and library were again seriously damaged by fire and an insurance of \$5,000 was recovered. At that time the library numbered about eight thousand volumes. Again the work of rebuilding was undertaken and on June 11, 1898, the library was once more opened to the public. At the beginning of the year 1917 the Holbrook library numbered about nine thousand volumes. The town appropriation for 1916 was \$324.85 and the income from other sources was \$1,182.83.

## MEDFIELD

As early as 1786 a social library was established in Medfield, the shares being four dollars each. It accumulated about seven hundred volumes, but after some years it was disbanded and the books distributed among the members. Another stockholders' library was started in 1828, and it acquired about one thousand volumes, when, like its predecessor, it passed out of existence.

The present free public library dates back to 1873. Early in that year George Cummings offered to give \$800 for the purpose of starting a library whenever the citizens of the town would obligate themselves to give a like sum. On March 29, 1873, it was announced that the desired sum had been subscribed and the library was opened in the town hall. Most of the books were destroyed in the fire of January 8, 1874, but the loss was made good by the gifts of public spirited citizens, and before the close of the year the library was reopened in the new town hall building. In 1892 the town granted the use of an additional room for a reading room. At his death George Cummings bequeathed \$1,000 to the library and since then George M. Smith left it a legacy of \$500, the income of both gifts being expended for its support.

In 1916 the town accepted the gift of a new building from Granville F. Dailey of New York, to be erected on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, and a trust fund of \$500 was received from John M. Richardson. At the beginning of the year 1917 the library numbered nearly seven thousand volumes. In the preceding year the town appropriation and dog tax amounted to \$206.53 and the income from other sources was \$428.21.

## MEDWAY

The Medway Public Library had its origin in the Dean Library Association, which was incorporated on March 3, 1860, the incorporators being Luther Metcalf, William H. Cary, John Cole, Dr. A. B. L. Monroe and Clark Partridge. It took its name from Dr. Oliver Dean of Franklin, who offered to give \$400, on condition that a like sum was raised by popular subscription. Life memberships cost ten dollars and the annual fees of those who did not hold life memberships were \$1.50. Upon the death of Doctor Dean the association received a number of shares of Boston & Albany Railroad stock, which afterward reached a value of about five thousand dollars, the income of which was to be used for the purchase of books.

From the time of its organization until 1872 the library was kept in Fisher's Hall, but upon the completion of Sanford's Hall in Medway Village the library was removed there, as being a more central location. In 1892 the town voted to

conform to the requirements of the library law of 1890, and received \$100 worth of books from the state as the basis of a free public library, which was opened to the public on the 18th of June of that year. The town then made an appropriation of \$125 and the dog tax—aggregating \$424—one-fourth of which went to the Dean Public Library and the balance to the town library, which was for several years kept in the same room as the postoffice. William T. Adams, who wrote a large number of juvenile stories under the pseudonym of "Oliver Optic," and who was a native of Medway, presented the library with a complete set of his works. Recently a building has been erected and presented to the town by the heirs of the late Addison and Lydia Thayer, and the two libraries have been united in the new building under one management. In 1916 the town reported 4,753 volumes and an income of \$435.87.

## MILLIS

The public library of Millis was organized in 1878 as the "East Medway Circulating Library." When the Town of Millis was set off from Medway and incorporated by the act of February 24, 1885, the members of the East Medway Circulating Library Association decided to tender to the selectmen of the new town all books in their possession (about 325) as the foundation of a free public library. This was done at a meeting of the association held on March 19, 1885, and the offer was accepted by a town meeting four days later. The association also turned over its cash on hand (some \$30) for the purchase of new books. The library building was erected by the heirs of Lansing Millis and presented to the town. In 1916 the library numbered 4,480 volumes and reported an income of \$214.76.

## MILTON

At a town meeting held on March 7, 1870, it was "voted that the town appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for a public library, to be paid to the trustees thereof, when a like sum has been raised by subscription or donation and secured to the satisfaction of the selectmen, and that nine trustees be chosen by the town to expend said amount and have charge of said library."

The citizens of the town manifested their interest in the proposition by promptly contributing the necessary \$3,000, upon which the trustees rented a room at Milton Lower Mills and on February 23, 1871, the library was opened to the public, with 3,500 volumes upon the shelves, selected with great care by a committee. Ten years later a building was erected at the Lower Mills especially for the accommodation of the library, and a few years later a branch was established at East Milton. From the beginning the town has been liberal in support of the library, and the institution also has the income from the following funds: Vose, \$4,900; Wolcott, \$1,000; Kidder, \$1,000; Churchill, \$500.

Probably no public library in Norfolk County has been of more assistance to the public schools than the one in Milton. On January 2, 1895, the trustees voted to allow the teachers to take from the library "books that have been in the library for one year, in the proportion of one book to every two pupils in the high and grammar schools, and of one book to every three pupils in the primary schools,

under such rules and restrictions as the executive committee may prescribe, the expense of transportation to be borne by the school committee." At the close of the schools in 1916, vacation reading lists were printed and distributed among the pupils in the primary and grammar grades, those reading the greatest number of books to constitute a "roll of honor" and have their names posted on the library bulletin board. The library now has three branches and eight school deposits, an arrangement by which every citizen of the town is brought in touch with the library.

At the close of the year 1916 nearly thirty thousand titles were catalogued in the Milton Public Library. The town appropriation, including the dog tax, for the year was \$10,065.76, and the income from other sources amounted to \$1,618.88.

#### NEEDHAM

On March 5, 1888, a town meeting in Needham voted to establish a public library, to be free to all the citizens of the town and "to be supported wholly by taxation, the town devoting to it the dog tax and a reasonable annual appropriation." The income for the first year was about eight hundred dollars. A room was set apart in the building leased for town purposes. Prior to the above action by the town meeting there were library associations at Needham and Highlandville, both of which turned their books over to the town as part of the free public library. In return for this courtesy on the part of the Highlandville Library Association, a branch of the public library was established in that village. Another branch was subsequently established at Needham Heights, where a building was donated by Andrew Carnegie. This building was purchased in 1915 by William Carter for \$9,000 in cash and a site for a new building. The town appropriated \$10,000 and Mr. Carnegie donated the balance of the cost, which was \$32,500. A delivery and deposit station has been established at the Needhamdale School, but the former branches have been discontinued. The new building was dedicated on May 4, 1916. It is one of the most modern designs in the county and has a capacity of 20,000 volumes. At the time it was opened to the public the library consisted of 16,500 volumes. The town appropriation for 1916 was \$28,973.97, and the income from other sources was \$19,392. This, of course, included the building fund.

#### NORFOLK

In 1880 the Norfolk Library Association, which had been organized some years previously, offered its collection of books, numbering about two hundred volumes, to the town. The offer was accepted and the Norfolk Farmers' Club loaned a number of volumes from the club library. An appropriation of about seventy-five dollars was made by the town and the library was opened in a room in the town house. There it remained until the completion of the new high school building in October, 1897, in which more convenient quarters were fitted up for the library, where it is still kept. In 1816 there were 2,334 volumes on the shelves and the town appropriation for that year was \$175.

## NORWOOD

On January 6, 1790, while Norwood was still a part of Dedham, twenty-two persons met and organized a social library association. Ten years later it was voted to sell the books at auction and distribute the proceeds among the members. On January 22, 1800, a few days after the auction, another library association was formed and used the same book of records, which is still in the possession of the Norwood Library. It continued as the "South Dedham Parish Library" until the Town of Norwood was incorporated in 1872, when the members offered to give "their rights and interests" in said library to the town. At the annual town meeting on March 3, 1873, the offer was accepted and a committee appointed to confer with the shareholders. Another town meeting was held on the 7th of April, at which the committee reported that the shareholders of the South Parish Library had signed an agreement relinquishing their interests in the library, "on condition that the Town of Norwood would establish and maintain a free public library for the benefit of the citizens of said town," and recommended that the offer be accepted. The report and recommendation were adopted and a board of trustees appointed to take charge of the library.

On February 1, 1898, George H. Morrill and his wife, Louisa J. Morrill, presented to the town a lot and building "to be used for literary and educational purposes only, and to be known as the Morrill Memorial Library." This magnificent gift, which cost over seventy-five thousand dollars, was donated to the town by Mr. and Mrs. Morrill as a memorial to their daughter, Sarah Bond Morrill, who died on March 7, 1895. The gift was accepted on February 1, 1898, with appropriate public exercises. In 1916 the library contained nearly eighteen thousand volumes. The town appropriation and dog tax for that year amounted to \$4,437.06 and other sources yielded an income of \$238.31.

## PLAINVILLE

When the Town of Plainville was incorporated by the act of April 4, 1905, the people lost the privileges they previously enjoyed of taking books from the Wrentham Public Library. At the annual town meeting in 1906 it was voted to accept the provisions of the library acts of 1890 and 1892, and room was set apart in the new school building for a public library. A little later the town received \$100 worth of books from the state and the pupils of the high school raised over forty dollars for the benefit of the library. The Plainville Library Association, which had been organized some years before, donated its collection of books (112 volumes) and the library was opened early in the year 1908 with about five hundred volumes. During the next two years some five hundred volumes were added by donation and purchase. In 1916 a deposit station was established at Shepardville. The library then numbered 3,750 volumes and reported an income of \$407.50, most of which was the town appropriation and dog tax.

## QUINCY

At the annual town meeting in 1871 it was "voted that the funds arising from the tax on dogs be appropriated to establish a free public town library," and a

committee was appointed to report a plan. The committee reported at a special meeting held on May 2, 1871, when a board of trustees was elected and the town appropriated \$2,500 for the purpose of fitting up a suitable room and the purchase of books. The library was opened to the public on December 11, 1871, with 4,600 volumes on the shelves, about half of which had been donated by the citizens, Charles Francis Adams presenting 1,650 volumes of congressional records and other public documents.

In February, 1880, the heirs and descendants of Thomas Crane offered to erect a library building to his memory, to cost not less than twenty thousand dollars, if the town would provide a suitable site. Thomas Crane was a Quincy stone cutter, who acquired a fortune by dealing in granite in New York. The town voted to accept the offer and to call the building "Crane Memorial Hall"; also that after the town library should be deposited therein it should be known as the "Thomas Crane Library." The sum of \$10,000 was appropriated for the purchase of a site and the "Thomas Crane Public Library of Quincy" was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in 1880. On May 30, 1882, the new building was dedicated. Its cost was over fifty thousand dollars and it has a capacity of 40,000 volumes. In 1895 a bequest of \$20,000 was made by Mrs. Clarissa L. Crane, widow of Thomas Crane, the income to be used for keeping the library building in repair, improvement of the grounds and purchase of works of art for the library. The Quincy library has one of the best collections of newspaper files and pamphlets pertaining to local history to be found in Norfolk County. In 1916 the catalogue showed nearly thirty-eight thousand titles. The income for that year was \$14,444.69 from the town and \$1,429.94 from other sources.

#### RANDOLPH

Randolph's public library is known as the "Turner Free Library." It was founded as a memorial to Col. Royal Turner by his heirs, viz: Seth Turner, Royal W. Turner, Mary B. Turner, Abby W. Turner and Annie M. Sweetser, and was opened to the public on March 22, 1876. The building was erected by the donors at a cost of \$40,000, exclusive of the ground upon which it stands. Colonel Turner's heirs also gave the town a donation of \$10,000 in money, one-half of which was used in the purchase of books and the remainder placed in an endowment fund. Seth Turner died on April 8, 1883, and in his will left an additional sum of \$10,000, the income of which is to be applied to the support of the library. This with the one-half of the original donation gives the institution a permanent fund of \$15,000.

The first floor of the building, a handsome stone structure, is used for banking and mercantile purposes, the money received from rentals also going toward the support of the library. Under these conditions it has never been necessary for the town to make large appropriations, further than to comply with the condition imposed by the donors that "the town shall keep the building repaired and insured." The library contains complete files of the local newspapers and in 1916 had upon its shelves 25,872 volumes. Several gifts of books were received during the year. The income from the Turner Fund was \$2,725.84, and the town appropriation was \$150.

## SHARON

At the annual town meeting in March, 1879, the people of Sharon voted an appropriation of \$400 to establish a free public library and a committee of seven was appointed to carry out the instructions of the meeting and act as trustees until the next annual meeting. It was also voted that the annual receipts from dog licenses should be applied to the maintenance of the library "until otherwise ordered." This gave the library an income of \$325 the first year. Russel Drake bequeathed the institution \$500, Eliza Perkins left a legacy of \$300, and there have been other donations and bequests to the library fund, which in 1916 yielded an income of \$219.24. The town appropriation for that year was \$1,311.28, which included the dog tax.

For the first five years of its existence the library was kept in rented rooms, but when the town building was completed in 1884 the library was removed there. Recently a new building has been erected by subscriptions from the citizens and a donation from Andrew Carnegie and the books, curios, etc., have been moved into new and permanent quarters. The library now contains over three thousand five hundred volumes and is well patronized by the people of the town. During the year 1916 Sharon was aided by a circulating library sent out by the Woman's Educational Association.

## STOUGHTON

Several attempts were made to establish a public library in Stoughton before one succeeded. In April, 1873, the town meeting voted to appropriate the dog tax of that year toward the support of a free public library. This was a humble beginning, but the project was aided by the addition of a small agricultural library, previously established, which was turned over to the town. The library was opened to the public early in 1874 with 524 volumes on the shelves. Wales French, who died on May 31, 1916, was librarian for many years and during his life bought practically all of the books. Henry L. Pierce left a legacy of \$25,000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of new books. This income first became available in 1898. Cassadana L. Phinney left \$500 by will for the benefit of the institution.

The library was at first kept in the town house, in which two rooms were set apart for book and reading rooms. A few years ago Lucius Clapp of Randolph, who had previously given the library 500 volumes, presented the town with a new library building. The growth of the Stoughton library has been all that could be desired by the town. In 1916 it reported 17,695 volumes. The town appropriation for that year was \$1,849, and the income from other sources was \$1,000.

## WALPOLE

At a town meeting held on March 13, 1876, a petition signed by George A. Kendall and others was presented asking for the establishment of a free public library. An appropriation of \$485, including the dog tax of that year, was made for the purpose of granting the petition and a board of six trustees was

chosen by the meeting. In April an arrangement was made between the trustees and the East Walpole Library Association by which the 700 volumes belonging to the latter were given to the public library, upon the condition that the books should be sent to East Walpole once a week for ten years. The Young People's Library of about one hundred and twenty-five volumes and the Agricultural Library of seventy-five volumes were also turned over to the public library, which was opened in a drug store on July 15, 1876. In April, 1878, it was removed to a room in a building owned by Nathaniel Bird, and in September, 1881, to the town hall. There it remained until it was removed into its present quarters in the library building, which was given to the town by Andrew Carnegie. The library now numbers about fifteen thousand volumes. The town appropriation and dog tax for 1916 amounted to \$3,000 and the income from other sources to \$250.

## WELLESLEY

The Wellesley Free Library was established in 1881, mainly through the munificence of Hollis H. Hunnewell, who paid all the operating expenses until 1890. A few hundred volumes were received from the Wellesley Library Association and individuals gave a number of books. The building, with a beautiful park of ten acres surrounding it, was presented to the town by Mr. Hunnewell in 1880. The building, a substantial stone edifice, cost about sixty thousand dollars and the donor also provided a fund of \$20,000 for the care of the library and grounds. In 1916 the library reported 19,271 volumes. The town appropriation and dog tax for that year amounted to \$4,253.07 and the income from the Hunnewell Fund to \$1,175.04.

## WESTWOOD

For a number of years prior to 1897 West Dedham had a library supported by subscription and carried on by an organization known as the West Dedham Library Club. It was kept in Ellis Hall and a fee of two dollars entitled any one to use the books. After a time the Town of Dedham appropriated \$150 a year toward the support of the library, and still later it became a branch of the Dedham Public Library.

When the Town of Westwood was incorporated on April 2, 1897, the new town appropriated \$150 for the library. On February 2, 1898, a town meeting voted to accept the conditions imposed by the act of May 4, 1888, relating to public libraries and the library became a public institution. In August, 1898, the books were removed to the selectmen's room. Howard Colburn, who was a member of the first board of trustees, later gave the town a small but neat building for the use of the library, which in 1916 reported 4,872 volumes. The town appropriation, including the dog tax, was \$515.39 and the library had an income of \$50.30 from other sources.

## WEYMOUTH

There are two public libraries in the Town of Weymouth—the Tufts Library and the Fogg Memorial Library. Early in the Nineteenth Century social libraries

were formed in some of the villages of the town. They were owned by associations and supported by a small annual fee paid by each member. Such an arrangement was not conducive to permanence or stability, and after a few years of varying success they gradually disappeared. One of these was organized in South Weymouth on August 7, 1800. Seventy-one citizens were members, each paying an annual fee of fifty cents. The few books left of the collection belonging to this association were found in the attic of a house which stood where the Fogg Memorial Library is now located and were added to that library. The Mutual Library Association of South Weymouth was organized on November 13, 1863, with eighty members. It accumulated about fifteen hundred volumes, the greater portion of which were destroyed by fire.

The Tufts Library was founded in 1879, when Quincy Tufts and his sister, Susan Tufts, left a fund of some twenty thousand dollars to be applied by the town "to instructive lectures, the reading room and the general expenses of a free public library." Part of the gift consisted of two buildings on the corner of Washington and Commercial streets, the lower floor of one being fitted up for a library and reading room, which was opened to the public and used until October, 1892. Then a new building was erected upon the site. It is fifty by eighty feet, with two full stories and a large attic. The lower floor on the Commercial Street side was rented and the money received from rental applied to the support of the library. In 1916 this library reported 29,755 volumes. Its total income for that year was \$5,197.71, about one half of which consisted of the town appropriation and dog tax and the remainder came from other sources.

In 1892 John S. Fogg, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, died and left \$50,000 in the hands of trustees to establish a free public library that should bear his name, said library to be located in his native village of South Weymouth. In 1897 plans were accepted by the trustees for a two-story building with high basement, in the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, to be constructed of Weymouth granite, forty-six by seventy-six feet in dimensions. It was dedicated with appropriate exercises on September 14, 1898. The cost of the site was \$6,000 and that of the building was \$25,000. The balance of the Fogg Fund is invested for the benefit of the library. A memorial bronze tablet, suitably inscribed, occupies the place of honor over the fireplace in the reading room. A Children's Library Society, composed of little girls under ten years of age, meets once a week at this library. In 1916 the number of volumes reported by the Fogg Library was 7,411. Out of the total income of \$1,628.36, the town appropriated \$500.

#### WRENTHAM

Previous to 1891 the Town of Wrentham had three small libraries—the Wrentham Book Club, the Mite Society, and the Sheldonville Library Association. In 1891 the town meeting voted to accept the provisions of the library act of 1890 and the state gave the customary \$100 worth of books toward the establishment of a free public library. The collections of the three above named libraries were then turned over to the town and became a part of the Wrentham Public Library, which was opened to the public on August 17, 1892.

George S. Fiske, Mrs. Esther Hammond, Misses Elizabeth and Charlotte

Fiske, children and grandchildren of the late Josiah J. Fiske, erected a library building at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars and presented it to the town, with a fund of \$5,000, the income from which is to be used for the maintenance of the institution. They also gave \$500 to be used for the purchase of books. In 1916 the library was recatalogued and reclassified under the direction of the Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission. It then contained 6,142 volumes and reported an income of \$818.75, of which the town appropriated \$550.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

In several of the towns historical societies have been organized, the object of which is to collect books, newspapers, records, old letters, pamphlets, relics, etc., as illustrate and perpetuate the history of New England, and particularly that of the town in which the society is located.

The oldest of these societies is the Dedham Historical Society, which was incorporated on April 23, 1862. In 1886 the society was authorized by a special act of the Legislature to erect a building, Miss Hannah Shuttleworth having bequeathed a lot at the junction of Church and High streets and a fund of \$10,000 for that purpose. The building, which is a fireproof structure, was completed in 1887. Here the society has a library of several thousand volumes and a collection of relics. Meetings are held monthly from October to May each year. The building is open to the public from two to five o'clock each afternoon except Sunday.

On May 29, 1893, the Canton Historical Society was incorporated, though it had been in existence since 1871. This society makes a specialty of biography and genealogy pertaining to the Town of Canton. A few years after it was incorporated a substantial building was erected as a place to preserve the collections belonging to the society. This is one of the most active historical societies in the county.

The Weymouth Historical Society was organized in the spring of 1879, and was incorporated on July 19, 1886. Elias Richards was chosen president at the time the society was organized in 1879 and served in that office for several years. For some time the meetings were held in the Tufts Library, but are now held monthly in the Fogg Library at South Weymouth. The society has a fine collection of historical matter and has published several volumes relating to the early history of the town, etc.

The Medfield Historical Society was incorporated on September 14, 1891. Its by-laws call for stated monthly meetings, which have been well attended from the beginning and a great deal of interest in local history has been awakened through the efforts of this organization.

Brookline organized a society in May, 1895. Each member pays \$1.00 annually and is entitled to a copy of every publication issued by the society. Several donations of books, documents, curious relics and sums of money have been received by this society. It has published a work on "Brookline in the Revolution," and some other pamphlets relating to local church history, etc.

On September 29, 1897, the Holbrook Historical Society was incorporated. Its collections are preserved in the town hall. Among them are many interesting

facts relating to the early history of the town and its inhabitants, with a number of old-time utensils, etc.

Two historical societies were incorporated in the year 1898—Foxboro on the last day of March, and Walpole on the 23d of May. The work of these two societies is along the same lines as that of the others in the county and regular meetings are held except during the hot weather of the summer season. There is also a historical society in Medway which owns its building and has a valuable collection of relics, documents, etc.

The Milton Historical Society is the outgrowth of the Historical Committee of the Milton Educational Society, which was founded on October 2, 1900. On February 7, 1905, the society was incorporated by Nathaniel T. Kidder and others, and the first annual meeting was held on June 6, 1905. The society then numbered 152 members. At that meeting the first paper was read before the society by Miss Mary P. Webster, the first president of the Milton Woman's Club. It was a sketch of Gov. Jonathan Belcher. In 1916 the society had upon its membership roll 306 names.

The Quincy Historical Society was incorporated on November 15, 1893. Its membership is composed of "men and women of Quincy and the villages included in the old Town of Braintree." It has collected a great deal of valuable information regarding the early families of the town.

## CHAPTER XLVIII

### CHURCH HISTORY

CHURCHES ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED BY TAXATION—CONSTITUTION OF 1820—DIFFICULTY OF WRITING CHURCH HISTORY—ARRANGEMENT BY DENOMINATIONS—THE BAPTISTS—THE CATHOLICS—CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE VARIOUS SOCIETIES.

For many years after the first settlements were made in Massachusetts, meeting houses<sup>1</sup> were built and public worship was maintained (except in rare cases) by taxes, or rates, levied upon the inhabitants. In the incorporation of new towns, one of the requirements was that the citizens of the proposed town erect a meeting house and "settle a learned, orthodox minister" within a given time. Grants of land were sometimes made to the minister instead of levying rates for his support. Early town records are filled with references to such land grants, the building or repair of meeting houses, or the "ministers' rates." Controversies occasionally arose that led to the organization of new parishes, and ultimately to the incorporation of new towns. Instances of this kind are mentioned in the chapters relating to the several towns of Norfolk County. Under the provisions of the revised constitution of Massachusetts, which went into effect in 1820, a complete separation of church and state took place. Since that time the religious societies have been maintained by voluntary contributions or bequests, no taxes for their support being countenanced by law.

To write an accurate and comprehensive history of the church organizations of any county in the United States—one that would prove satisfactory to all parties—is probably the hardest task that could be assigned to the historian. Volumes have been written upon the subject of church history in New England, covering a period of almost three centuries. It will therefore be readily understood that, in a county history such as this, the topic must be treated somewhat superficially. To undertake the examination of town records; an exhaustive account of the actions of the town meetings from time to time; to give a detailed statement of each of the numerous controversies, or extended biographical mention of pastors is impracticable, hence in these chapters devoted to church history only an outline of church development has been attempted. Letters of inquiry sent to pastors and others in the beginning of the preparation of this history failed to bring replies in many instances, but from such sources as were available the leading facts concerning the churches of the county have been collected. For the convenience of the reader, the denominations have been arranged in alphabetical order.

## THE BAPTISTS

The oldest Baptist Church in Norfolk County, of which any record can be found, was organized in Medfield in 1752. Some of the members of the regular parish church became dissatisfied with the settlement of Mr. Townsend as pastor and united with the Baptist Church in Boston. For several years after the organization of the society in 1752, services were held in private dwellings. In 1771 a small house of worship was erected and Rev. Thomas Gair installed as pastor. In 1787 the church decided it was not able to support a pastor and Mr. Gair went to a church in Boston. In 1811 the society was reorganized and incorporated, with Rev. William Gammell as pastor, and in 1823 the church building was enlarged and improved. It was thoroughly remodeled in 1874, at a cost of \$12,500, one-half of which was given by George Cummings, one of the deacons. A new parsonage was built in 1879.

In 1761 a town meeting in Bellingham voted to build a Baptist Church "on the knoll in the crotch of the roads at the town centre." This is the second oldest church of this denomination in the county. The North Bellingham Baptist Church was established in 1847, and for many years the two Baptist churches were the only ones in the town.

On October 27, 1806, the first services conducted by a Baptist minister in Brookline were held at the house of Thomas Griggs. The preacher was Rev. Joseph Grafton, often called "Father Grafton." No church was organized until June, 1827, and the following years a chapel was erected at the corner of Washington and School streets. On March 25, 1830, Rev. Joseph M. Driver was ordained as pastor. A new church was soon afterward built and the old chapel converted into a parsonage. Such was the beginning of the "First Baptist Church of Brookline."

The Baptist Church of Canton was organized on April 27, 1812, by Elder Joel Briggs of Randolph, who preached the first Baptist sermon in the town earlier in the year, and on April 14th baptized four persons. Twenty-one members signed the membership roll, but on June 22, 1814, the church was reorganized with a membership of thirty-five. Rev. Henry Kendall was the first pastor of the church after the reorganization. The first church building was completed in 1820, and was dedicated on January 14, 1821. A new building was dedicated on June 13, 1837, and was completely remodeled in 1869. The pastor of this church in June, 1917, was Rev. N. B. Rogers.

In 1812 Rev. William Gammell, then pastor of the Medfield Baptist Church, visited the few Baptist families of Sharon and held services at the homes of Leavitt Hewins and Joshua Whittemore. A number of people attended these meetings and some of them united with the church. They were baptized in Billings' Pond and early in the year 1813 a Baptist Church was organized with twenty-six members. In August, 1831, Rev. Caleb Green was installed as pastor and two years later the first church edifice was completed. It was greatly enlarged in 1860.

A Baptist society was organized in Foxboro in the latter part of the year 1821. In March, 1822, Rev. Warren Bird was called to the pulpit as pastor and remained with the church for over six years. The first house of worship was built in 1822, at a cost of \$1,200. In May, 1838, it was removed to the lot upon which the town house was afterward built. Virgil S. Pond purchased

this building in 1850, when the new church was built on School street. It cost \$4,200. Some years later it was remodeled almost to the extent of a new house and was dedicated a second time on January 22, 1879.

In 1808 a division occurred in the Third Parish of Dedham, growing out of the location of the new meeting house, and about sixty of the members withdrew and united with the Baptist Church of Medfield. It was due to this association of strength that the Medfield Church was resuscitated and incorporated three years later. After the new meeting house in the Third Dedham Parish was finished, the old one was advertised to be sold at auction. It was purchased by Aaron Baker, who later sold it to the seceders and it was removed to its present location. Rev. William Gammell preached alternately there and at Medfield, and on November 1, 1824, the "First Baptist Church in Dedham" was organized with Rev. Samuel Adlam as pastor. It is now known as the Westwood Baptist Church.

On November 15, 1832, the First Baptist Church of Medway was organized in the West Parish, with Rev. William Bowen as pastor. It has never been a strong church, but maintains its organization and holds services in a house that was built about 1840.

In 1837 a number of Baptists living in Dover, Needham and Natick organized themselves into a society and the next year a chapel was built at Charles River Village. Twenty years later, other churches having been formed in Needham and Natick, it was decided to move the Dover Church to a new location, which was done. Services were continued for some years after the removal of the chapel, but the number of members kept decreasing and the society was finally disbanded.

About 1841 a Baptist evangelist, Rev. John Blain, visited Braintree and held meetings. Within a year a society was organized under the name of the "First Baptist Church of Braintree" and a house of worship was erected. This society had hardly been organized when some of the sect known as "Millerites" gained a foothold and began predicting the destruction of the earth in 1843. Their meetings were held frequently—sometimes every day for a week or more at a time—and quite a number of converts were made. The excitement over the prophecy of the Millerites weakened the Baptist Church, and after a few years the church building was sold to the Methodists, some of the members joining that society.

The Second Baptist Church, now the only one in the town, was organized about 1869 by persons who withdrew from the First Baptist Church. They bought the old school house on the corner of Washington and West streets and remodeled it for a house of worship. Subsequently the building was removed to Elm street, almost opposite the First Congregational Church. After seven or eight years the society failed for want of support and Braintree was without a Baptist Church for nearly ten years. The society was then reorganized and now holds regular services with Rev. P. L. Cosman as pastor.

On September 13, 1843, a Baptist society of twenty-one members organized in East Dedham, sixteen of them coming from the church in West Dedham. A small chapel was erected and in 1848 Rev. William C. Patterson became the first regular pastor. The congregation grew in numbers and a new church building was erected on the corner of Myrtle and Milton streets. It was dedicated

on November 18, 1852, and is still used by the society, though it has been recently repaired and remodeled.

The first Baptist Church in Wrentham was organized at Sheldonville about 1843 and a house of worship was erected. Later the site was acquired by the Universalists, who put up a new building. The Baptist society then removed to its present location on West street, almost opposite the end of Hancock street, where it now owns property valued at \$3,200.

In 1851 a few Baptists living in the village of Weymouth Landing and the immediate vicinity began holding weekly prayer meetings and the women organized a sewing circle. With the funds raised by the circle Union Hall was rented and services held there at such times as the Baptist ministers of the neighboring towns could attend. On March 13, 1852, a Sunday school was commenced. Preaching continued at intervals during the next two years, and on February 7, 1854, the first steps toward the organization of a church society were taken. The organization was completed on June 21, 1855, with Rev. Andrew Dunn as pastor. Mr. Dunn had commenced his ministerial labors in April and it was through his efforts that a small chapel was built on Washington street. It was dedicated on July 12, 1855, and served the congregation for about ten years. Then a larger house of worship was erected at the corner of Washington and Broad streets, nearly opposite the chapel.

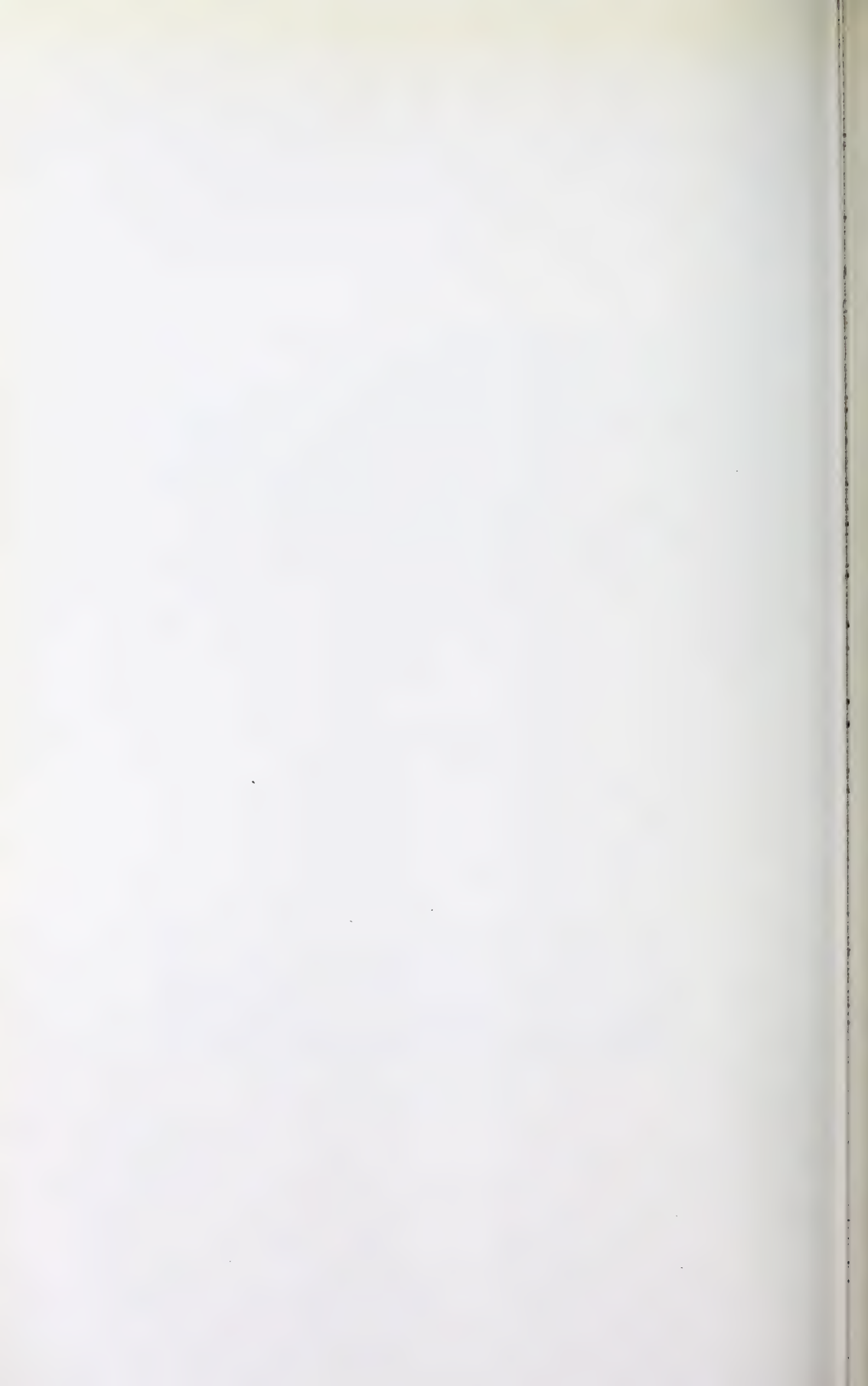
The first regular service of the first Baptist Church of Needham was held on September 24, 1854, in the school house that then stood on the corner of Webster street and Great Plain avenue. A Sunday school was then organized, with George Howland as superintendent, and a number of people signified their willingness to assist in the organization of a Baptist Church. Subscriptions to a building fund were then solicited and in a short time nearly two thousand dollars had been pledged. The church was built on the corner of Highland and Great Plain avenues and was opened for worship in June, 1855, though the church was not formally organized until May 26, 1856. For about fifteen years the society had to struggle for existence, but in 1871 a number of new members came in, the church building was enlarged at a cost of \$4,154 and was dedicated on June 5, 1872, free from debt.

Some of the members of the Baptist Church in West Dedham lived in South Dedham (now Norwood), and in the summer of 1858 they began to consider the question of organizing a new church. The first services were held in Union Hall on August 8, 1858, and were conducted by Rev. Joseph B. Breed of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. On November 3, 1858, the society was formed according to the usages of the Baptist Church and Mr. Breed was installed as pastor. He remained until the spring of 1860, when he was succeeded by Rev. C. Osborn. The church edifice was built under the pastorate of Mr. Breed and was dedicated on December 1, 1859.

Rev. J. W. Holman, who was also a physician, organized the Franklin Baptist Church in 1868, and was its first pastor. The society was disbanded in 1876. In September, 1881, Rev. A. W. Jefferson was sent to Franklin as a missionary and as a result of his work the church was reorganized in June, 1882, with a membership of thirty-five. Services were held for a time in the town hall. Then a neat little chapel was built on East street. In 1874 the society purchased the building that had been erected by the Universalists, removed it to School



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, QUINCY  
(From a negative made about 1897.)



street and made some changes in it. This building is still used by the congregation.

The first Baptist Church of Wollaston was organized on August 13, 1871. A lot was soon afterward purchased and a neat house of worship was erected on the corner of Prospect and Warren streets. Rev. Joseph Walther was the pastor of this church at the beginning of 1917.

The Lower Mills Baptist Church in Milton is the outgrowth of a series of meetings held there for about two years by the "Lower Mills Baptist Mission." The church was regularly organized on October 13, 1882, with twenty-five members. Rev. Nathan Hunt was called to the pulpit as pastor and meetings were held in a hall for about three years, when a church building was erected.

#### THE CATHOLICS

Catholicism was introduced into Norfolk County on September 18, 1842, when St. Mary's Church of Quincy was organized. Previous to that time masses had been said by visiting priests for the benefit of the Catholics employed in the granite quarries and living in the town. The present church building, erected some years ago, is located on the corner of Cross and Crescent streets and the parish is under the charge of Rev. Thomas R. McCoy.

In 1846 visiting priests said the first masses in Dedham in private dwellings. Services were next held in the Temperance Hall (the old court-house) until 1857, when St. Mary's Church on Washington street, between Spruce and Marion, was dedicated. Rev. P. O'Beirne was the first resident priest. In 1878 a church called St. Raphael's was built in East Dedham, but a little later it was merged into St. Mary's. On October 17, 1880, the corner-stone of the present church was laid. It is a magnificent stone structure, 150 feet in length by 66 feet in width. The parish is now under the charge of Rev. John Fleming.

In 1851 Rev. M. X. Carroll obtained permission of the Franklin authorities to use the town hall for religious services according to the Catholic ritual. He was succeeded by Father McCabe, of Woonsocket, in 1862. Other priests officiated from time to time until February, 1877, when Father Griffin was installed as the first resident priest. The old Congregational Church had been purchased in 1871, and after Father Griffin took charge a parsonage was erected.

St. Mary's Church of the Assumption in Brookline dates its beginning from July 30, 1852, when the first mass in the town was celebrated in Lyceum Hall. Two years later a church was erected at Andem Place and Rev. Michael O'Beirne was the first resident priest. In October, 1873, ground was purchased on Harvard street for a new church. The corner-stone was laid on October 1, 1882, and the building was completed about two years later. It cost about eighty thousand dollars.

In 1852, while Father O'Beirne was in charge of St. Mary's parish at Dedham, he visited the South Parish (now Norwood) and said masses at the homes of the Catholics living in that vicinity. A small number of families assembled and a mission was organized. Meetings were held in Union Hall and Village Hall until April 22, 1863, when the building erected by the Universalists some years before was purchased and the parish of St. Catherine was formally instituted. The house was remodeled to conform to Catholic rites and was dedicated on August 3, 1863.

In 1854 Father Strain, of Chelsea, and Rev. Terrence Fitzsimmons, of South Boston, visited Canton and conducted services in what was called the "Stone Factory Chapel." A few months later work was commenced on a Catholic Church a short distance north of the railroad station in South Canton. It was opened for regular services in the summer of 1855. Under different priests the parish prospered and in 1868 the present St. John's Church was dedicated. Its original cost was about sixteen thousand dollars, but considerably more than that sum has been expended in its improvement. The parish is now under the charge of Rev. John J. Farrell, with Rev. D. J. McGuire and Rev. E. T. McKenna as assistants.

The parish of St. Francis Xavier, in Weymouth, was organized in 1854, with Father Roach as resident priest. Masses had been said by Fathers Roddan and Lynch in private homes in East Weymouth as early as 1851. In 1859 the first church building was erected near the town hall, on Middle street. It was burned in 1869 and a new church was erected on Pleasant street the next year.

At Weymouth Landing the first masses were said in Tirrell's Hall. In 1873 the parish of the Sacred Heart was organized there, the tavern property was purchased and services conducted in the hall of the building until 1876, when a church was commenced. It is a fine edifice of brick and stone, and at the time it was finished was regarded as the costliest church building in the eastern part of the county.

In 1879 the parish of the Immaculate Conception was organized in East Weymouth. The church building there was dedicated on November 23d of that year. St. Jerome's parish in Old Spain was organized in 1881.

In 1853 a number of Catholic families connected with the parish of St. Mary's in Quincy took the preliminary steps for the formation of a new parish. The result was the establishment of St. John's Church early in the succeeding year. The present church building, located on the corner of Gay and School streets, was dedicated on June 14, 1874. Rev. M. J. Owens is the present priest in charge.

The first Catholic Church in Foxboro was erected in 1859, though for several years prior to that date services had been conducted there by Rev. M. X. Carroll and others. The building was burned on March 1, 1862, and was not rebuilt until 1873. This building was also destroyed by fire on September 12, 1877, and the present church edifice was erected the next year. This parish also has chapels at East Foxboro and South Foxboro.

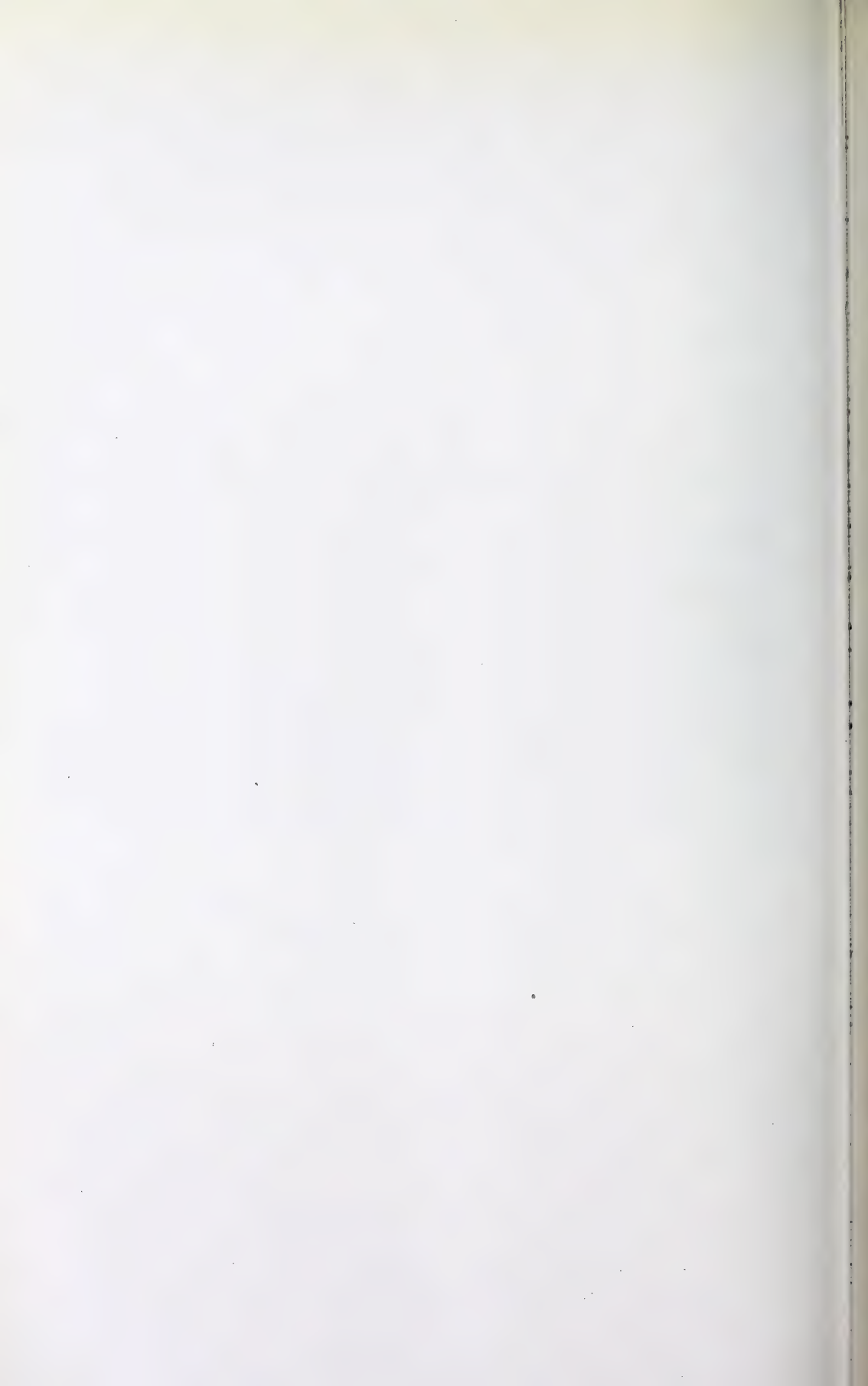
St. Clair's Church at Medway Village was instituted in 1864, with Rev. P. J. Quinlan as resident priest. A house of worship and a parsonage were soon afterward erected.

For some years prior to 1875, the Catholics of Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate were under the direction of Rev. Hugh P. Smyth. In 1875 St. Anthony's Church at Cohasset was built and the first services held in the new church on the 15th of July. The parish in June, 1917, was under the charge of Rev. Daniel J. Carney.

Another Catholic church edifice that was erected in 1875 is the one at Lower Falls in Wellesley. The first services were held in this building on April 18, 1875, though it was not formally dedicated until May 8, 1881. Archbishop Williams conducted the dedicatory ceremonies. The first resident priest was Rev. Michael Dolan, who remained in charge of the parish for several years.



HIGH SCHOOL AND CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEEDHAM



In 1877 a Catholic society was organized in Braintree as a mission of St. Mary's Church in Quincy. Meetings were at first held in a hall, but about 1882 a church was built on Central avenue and the parish was organized under the name of St. Francis. At the beginning of the year 1917, Rev. Hugh F. Blunt was the pastor.

A Catholic Church was established in Stoughton a few years after the close of the Civil war, and a chapel was built by this parish on Pond street in Sharon. There is also a Catholic Church in Wrentham, which in 1916 owned property valued at \$750, according to the town report.

As Quincy is entitled to being the seat of the oldest Catholic Church in Norfolk County, so it is entitled to being the seat of the youngest. In addition to the parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's already mentioned, the Sacred Heart Church was organized some years ago and now has a neat church building on Hancock street, near Hunt, with Rev. Thomas J. Coghlan as pastor. On April 5, 1917, Rev. Mark E. Madden threw the first shovelful of earth in breaking ground for a new Catholic Church at Hough's Neck.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A Congregational Church may be either Trinitarian or Unitarian. In this chapter only those Congregational churches that hold to the Trinitarian doctrine are treated, the others being given under the head of Unitarian churches. The first churches established in Norfolk County were of the Congregational faith, some of them afterward adopting the Unitarian doctrine.

The oldest church organization in the county is probably the one known as the First Church of Weymouth, though no record of its establishment is known to be in existence. Rev. William Morrell, a minister of the Church of England, came over with the Gorges Company in 1623, and quite likely conducted religious services in the infant colony during his short stay of about eighteen months. In the summer of 1635 Rev. Joseph Hull came with a company from Weymouth, England, and it is believed that the church was regularly organized soon after his arrival. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Jenner in 1636. During the next few years there was some contention over who was pastor, but in 1640 the members united on Rev. Samuel Newman. A meeting house was built on "Burying Hill," nearly opposite the present soldiers' monument, and in December, 1652, it had fallen into such a condition that the selectmen were directed "to do what may be necessary to make it more comfortable and prevent any further decay." The house was again repaired in 1667, when the first bell was hung, and in 1682 it was torn down. A new meeting house was erected that year upon land purchased of John Holbrook. It was 40 by 45 feet in dimensions and cost £280. This house was burned on April 23, 1751. It was rebuilt, but was replaced by the present edifice in 1832. This church, known as the "Old North Church," is the mother of all the Protestant churches in Weymouth.

Wrentham was set off from Dedham and incorporated as a town in 1673. King Philip's war followed soon after and no permanent settlements were made until after the close of hostilities. In March, 1681, the inhabitants of the town took the first steps toward the building of a meeting house, and it was not finished for several years. The first minister in Wrentham was Rev. Samuel Man,

who began his labors there before the settlement was abandoned on account of King Philip's war. When the pioneers returned to the plantation after the war and began the work of rebuilding their homes, Mr. Man rejoined them and it was under his pastorate that the meeting house above mentioned was erected.

In October, 1785, more than a century after the church was established, the town voted with the church members in the call and settlement of Rev. David Avery as minister. It was not long until some of the members grew dissatisfied with the pastor and a controversy was commenced which lasted for several years. On February 4, 1793, the town "resolved by a vote of seventy-four to one not to employ Mr. Avery as a gospel minister any longer," and Lemuel Kollock, Oliver Pond and Dr. Jenks Norton were appointed a committee to inform Mr. Avery of the vote. Mr. Avery ignored the town's action and the controversy went on until July, 1798, when the church voted unanimously to call Rev. Elisha Fisk to the pulpit. Since then the church has been fairly prosperous and in 1916 owned property valued at \$12,500.

On December 2, 1713, Caleb Gardner, Jr., offered to donate a site for a meeting house in Brookline, and on the same date the town meeting voted to build a meeting house "of the same Demensions with the Meting House in the South west part of Roxbury." Thomas Gardner, Samuel Aspinwall, Thomas Stedman, John Sever and Erosamond Drew were chosen as a committee to superintend the erection of the building. The "Demensions" were 35 by 44 feet. In May, 1804, it was voted to build a new church and the corner-stone was laid in April, 1805. It was 64 by 68 feet, with a porch 19 by 38 feet in front. The new house was dedicated on June 11, 1806. This house served the congregation until the present structure was erected in 1848. The first pastor was Rev. Nehemiah Walter.

The first Congregational Church in Medway was organized on October 7, 1714, in that part of the town afterward set off as Millis, under the name of the "First Church of Christ." The first services were held in the dwelling of Peter Adams. On November 20, 1715, the first meeting house, located on "Bare Hill," was dedicated, with Rev. David Deming as pastor. Shortly after the close of the Civil war in 1865, a Sunday school was established at Rockville by this church, and in 1876 a chapel was erected at that place.

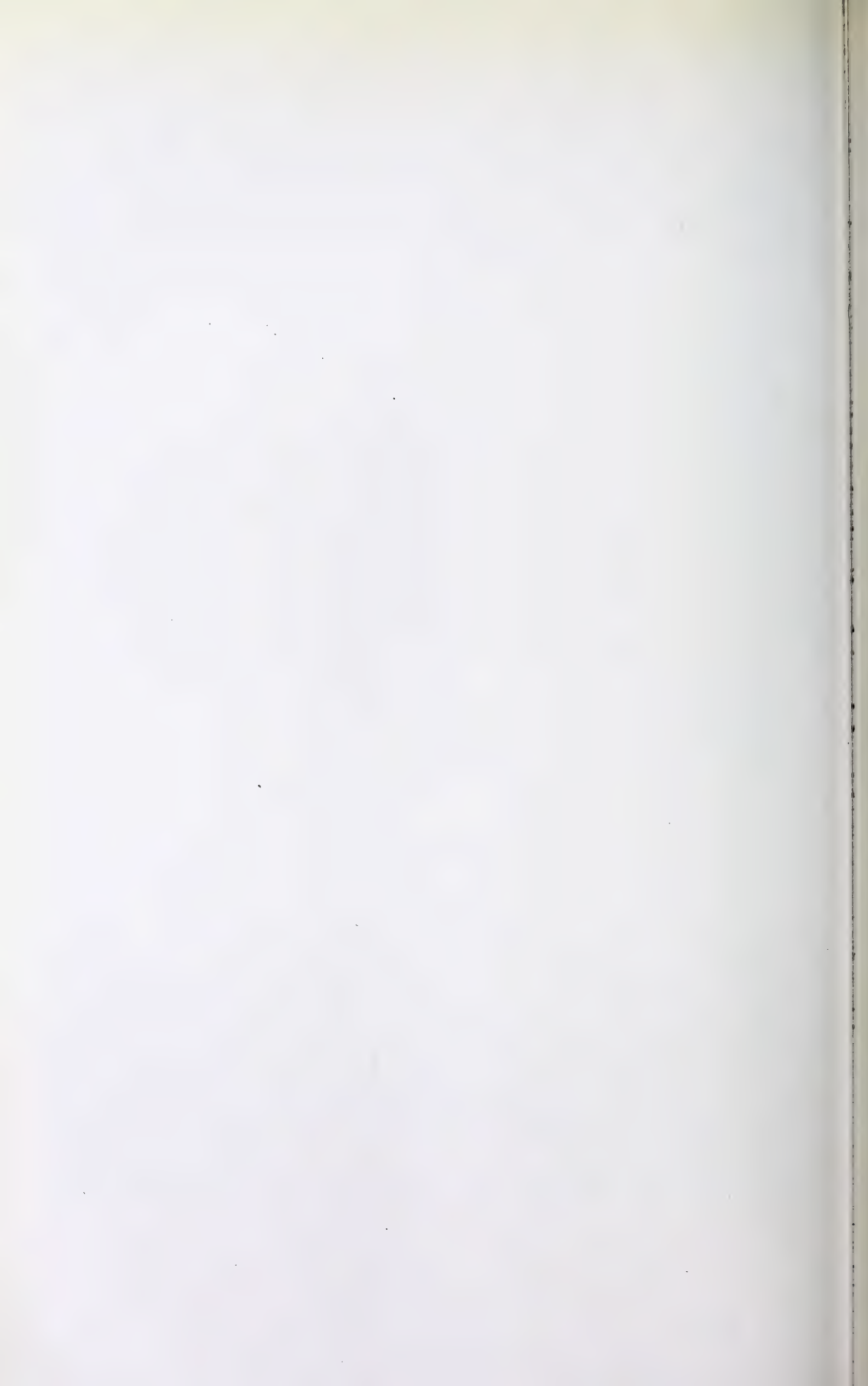
Needham was incorporated in November, 1711, and the first Congregational Church was organized on March 20, 1720. Rev. Josiah Townsend was the first pastor. For over a century this congregation worshiped according to the cardinal doctrines of the evangelical churches of New England. Then there came a spiritual apathy which resulted in the church passing out of the hands of Congregationalism.

On April 28, 1856, a meeting was held by those who believed in the Congregational faith, and steps were taken to reorganize the church. Rev. Ebenezer Burgess preached the first sermon for the new organization in Village Hall on the first Sunday in July. The pulpit was supplied by different ministers until February 8, 1857, when Rev. Lucius R. Eastman was installed as pastor. Meetings were held in Village Hall until December 28, 1859, when the first house of worship was dedicated, the sermon on that occasion being preached by Rev. E. N. Kirk, of Mount Vernon Church, Boston. Rev. J. E. M. Wright came to this church as pastor in July, 1875, and continued with it for nearly five years.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH, QUINCY. ORGANIZED 1636

Beneath the portico of this church are entombed the remains of John Adams and John Quincy Adams.



Toward the close of his pastorate a revival resulted in the addition of several new members and the church building was enlarged and remodeled.

By an act of the Legislature in the spring of 1723, the South Precinct of Weymouth was established. The South Parish was organized on June 21, 1723, and on the 15th of July Rev. James Bayley was settled as minister. A meeting house had already been built and Mr. Bayley had been holding service for several months. The church, known as the Second Congregational Church of South Weymouth—sometimes called the “Old South Church”—was fully organized on September 18, 1723. Mr. Bayley remained with this church as pastor until his death on August 22, 1766.

A call was then extended to Rev. Ephraim Briggs, but opposition developed and he declined to accept. On October 26, 1768, Rev. Simeon Williams was ordained as the second regular pastor. Rev. William Tyler, who had been junior pastor under Mr. Williams, was ordained on February 24, 1819, Mr. Williams having died in December previous, and remained with the church for nearly thirteen years. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles I. Warren, who remained only a little over a year. Then for four years the church was without any regular pastor. During that time a division arose, some of the members withdrawing and forming the Edwards Society. The breach was healed in 1837, but in 1842 another strong party withdrew and formed the Union Church, notice of which will be given hereafter. Despite this secession, the Old South Church survived and is still in existence.

When Bellingham was incorporated on November 27, 1719, one provision of the act was that the people should “settle a learned orthodox Minister within the Space of three years now coming.” In January, 1723, the town voted to grant fifty acres of land to the first minister settling therein, and not long afterward Rev. Thomas Smith entered upon his duties. He remained but a short time and in the winter of 1726-27 Rev. Jonathan Mills was ordained. A meeting house was built, but this church was superseded in 1761 by the Baptist Church at Bellingham Center.

Randolph's Congregational Church was organized in the fall of 1728, the present towns of Randolph and Holbrook having been set off as the South Precinct of Braintree by an act of the General Court, approved on December 28, 1727. Services were held by various ministers until the spring of 1731, when Rev. Elisha Eaton was ordained as pastor. The first meeting house had been erected prior to the establishment of the precinct, but it was rudely built, without paint, means of heating in cold weather, steeple or bell. After the precinct was organized an acre of land was purchased of Joseph Crosby for forty shillings. On this acre, on the border of the public square, the present church was dedicated in 1825.

On October 8, 1730, the South Parish of Dedham (now Norwood) was incorporated by act of the General Court. It was known as the Second Precinct. On the 9th of November fifty pounds were raised and appropriated “to secure a preacher for six months—three months to be at the house of John Ellis and three months at the house of Nathaniel Guild, if it can be obtained.” At the same time it was voted to build a meeting house, but a dispute arose over its location and several years passed before that dispute was finally settled. A committee of the General Court was sent in 1734 to investigate the situation.

Upon the recommendation of this committee, some of the citizens in the new precinct were attached to the old parish, and on January 4, 1735, the South Parish voted "to build a meeting house on the land formerly Ebenezer Dean's, which is the place a committee of the Great and General Court has ordered a meeting house to be erected."

Such was the beginning of the Norwood Congregational Church. The present house of worship, on the corner of Walpole and Winter streets, was erected in 1828, part of the timbers in the old meeting house being used in the construction of the new one.

Franklin was set off as the Second Precinct of Wrentham by an act of the General Court approved by Governor Belcher on December 23, 1737. At the first precinct meeting, held on January 16, 1738, it was voted to build a meeting house 31 by 40 feet in dimensions. About twenty members of the Wrentham Congregational Church withdrew by letter, and on February 16, 1738, Rev. Joseph Baxter of the Medfield Church organized the Franklin Congregational Church. On November 8, 1738, Rev. Elias Haven was installed as pastor. A new meeting house was built in 1789. The last services in this building were held on September 28, 1840, when the funeral of Dr. Nathaniel Emmons, who had been pastor for almost sixty-seven years were conducted there. The next day the men began tearing down the structure to make way for the present edifice.

Mention has been made of the First Church of Christ in the Town of Medway. The Second Church of Christ was organized in that town on October 4, 1750, with Rev. David Thurston as pastor. All efforts to obtain a history of this Congregational society resulted in failure.

In 1763 the first Congregational meeting house was erected in the Town of Foxboro. At that time the territory now comprising the town formed a part of Stoughton. When the Town of Foxboro was incorporated by the act of June 10, 1778, the church was reorganized and Rev. Thomas Kendall was ordained as pastor. In 1822 a new house of worship was built near the site of the old one, and this served the congregation until the erection of the present edifice in 1854.

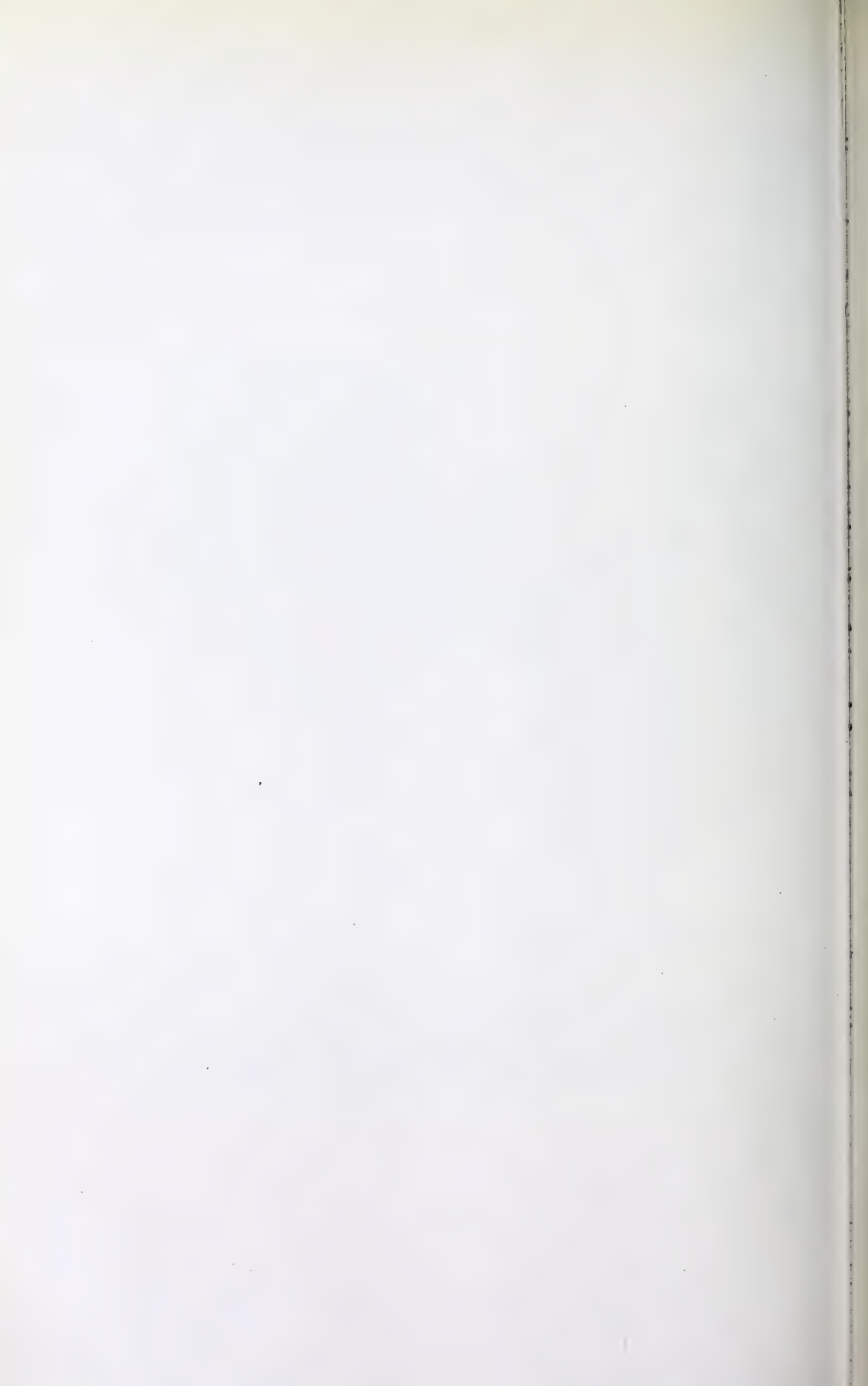
Wellesley was set off as the West Precinct of Needham in 1778, and in 1797 eighteen families were added to the precinct by the annexation of a portion of Natick. The inhabitants then felt strong enough to maintain a church organization, and on September 6, 1798, a Congregational society of ten members was formed. Rev. Thomas Noyes was ordained as pastor on July 10, 1799, and a neat chapel was soon afterward erected. This building was remodeled and dedicated on January 1, 1835. In 1868 the present house of worship was built and the old one was sold to Charles B. Dana, who removed it and afterward presented it to Wellesley College, where it is known as "Dana Hall."

The Union Congregational Church of Weymouth and Braintree was organized on March 13, 1810, by members of the first churches of the two towns. The Hollis Street Church in Boston, which stood where the Hollis Street Theater now stands, was then about to be taken down. It was purchased by the Union Church and removed to East Braintree, where it was rebuilt and dedicated on December 31, 1811. Rev. Daniel A. Clark was the same day ordained as pastor. The present church building was dedicated on December 13, 1898.

On the last day of August, 1818, the First Parish of Dedham elected Rev. Alvan Lamson as "a public Protestant teacher of piety, religion and morality,"



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, DEDHAM



by a vote of eighty-one to forty-four. In this action the church, by a vote of seventeen to fifteen, refused to concur, claiming that in the election of a pastor the first steps should be taken by the church organization. Notwithstanding this refusal, Mr. Lamson was ordained on October 29, 1818, by a council that had been called to hear the differences of opinion.

The dissenters caused another council to be called for November 18, 1818, but that council gave no advice. The question was then carried to the courts, where the action of the parish in electing Mr. Lamson, and that of the council in ordaining him, were upheld. The members who opposed his ordination then withdrew from the church and organized an orthodox Congregational Church. A meeting house was erected on the opposite side of High Street from the old parish meeting house. It was dedicated on December 30, 1819, and on March 14, 1821, Rev. Ebenezer Burgess was installed as pastor. Five years later a new vestry was built by Mr. Burgess at his own expense.

On December 15, 1818, forty members of the Congregational Church in Randolph, including the two deacons, were dismissed to form the "Second Church" in East Randolph (now Holbrook). A meeting house was immediately built and the first regular pastor, Rev. David Brigham, was installed on December 29, 1819. In 1856 dissensions arose in the church, the membership became divided, and on December 30, 1856, the Winthrop Church, named in honor of Gov. John Winthrop, was formed. This society first held its meetings in E. N. Holbrook's hall until the new church building was completed. It was dedicated on January 24, 1858. The new church prospered, while the old Second Church languished, being without a regular pastor for several years, and in 1864 ceased holding meetings altogether. On January 29, 1874, the two were united under the name of the Winthrop Congregational Church of Holbrook. On the morning of December 25, 1877, the church building and town hall were destroyed by fire. The present church edifice was then erected and dedicated on February 22, 1880.

The present Congregational Church in Stoughton is the outgrowth of a division in the old Third Precinct church in 1822. The original Congregational Church of Stoughton is now the First Unitarian Church of Canton. In September, 1817, Rev. Ebenezer Gay, a strict Calvinist, was called to the pulpit of the Third Precinct church. Some of the members were dissatisfied from the start with his pastorate and quite a number united with the Universalist Church. The majority remained, however, and in 1822, forced Mr. Gay's resignation. This same majority, with the exception of a few, then decided to adopt the Unitarian form of worship, and the remnant met on July 1, 1822, and "appointed a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer." It was also voted to call a council to advise with regard to the formation of a new church.

The new Congregational Church first met at the house of Daniel Hayward, next in William Holbrook's hall until June 1, 1825, when the meeting house was dedicated. Rev. Calvin Park became pastor in October, 1825. The present house of worship was dedicated on June 28, 1852. It is 58 by 75 feet in dimensions and cost about twelve thousand dollars.

On October 8, 1824, the corner-stone of the Congregational Church in Cohasset was laid, and the society was organized on the 24th of November following.

Rev. Aaron Pickett was the first pastor. The pastor of this church in the spring of 1917 was Rev. Fred V. Stanley.

The Orthodox Congregational Church of Walpole was organized at the house of Mrs. Catharine Allen on November 13, 1826, with twenty-nine members. Meetings were held for about a year in the second story of a building on the corner of Main and East streets. During that time the pulpit was supplied by such ministers as could be obtained from Boston and the churches of adjacent towns. The church building was dedicated in September, 1827, Rev. John Codman, of Dorchester, preaching the sermon. It cost about three thousand dollars, and was thoroughly remodeled in 1867, at an expense of seventeen thousand dollars. The first pastor of this church was Rev. Asahel Bigelow.

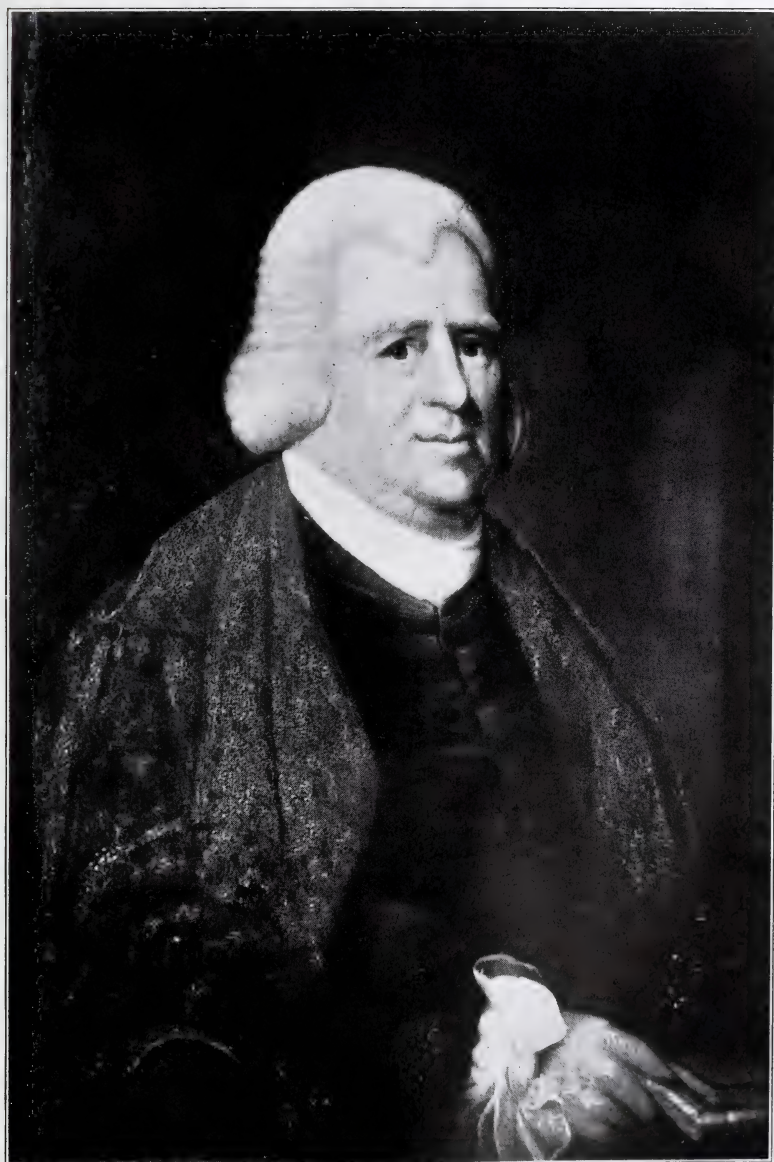
The Second or Orthodox Congregational Church of Medfield dates its beginning from February 6, 1827, when several members withdrew from the First or Unitarian Church for the purpose of forming a new society. For about four years meetings were held in a small hall over the store on the corner of Main and North streets. Rev. Arthur Granger was installed as the first regular pastor in 1831. The following year a church building was erected. It was enlarged and repaired in 1873 and in 1876 it was totally destroyed by fire. The present house of worship was built in 1877, at a cost of about ten thousand dollars.

The Evangelical Congregational Church of Canton was organized on July 3, 1828, at the home of Mrs. Katherine Hartwell with ten members. During the first eighteen months of its existence the society had neither settled pastor nor house of worship. In 1830 a church edifice was dedicated and Rev. William Harlow was installed as pastor. The present house of worship was dedicated on August 22, 1860, though it has since undergone extensive repairs and alterations.

What is known as the South Congregational Church in Braintree was the third established in that town. The society erected a church building in South Braintree and on August 4, 1830, Rev. Lyman Matthews was ordained as the first pastor. He remained with the church until the fall of 1844. In the latter '70s the meeting house was burned to the ground, but another was immediately rebuilt upon the same site and it is still used by the congregation. In June, 1917, Rev. Tyler E. Gale was pastor of this church.

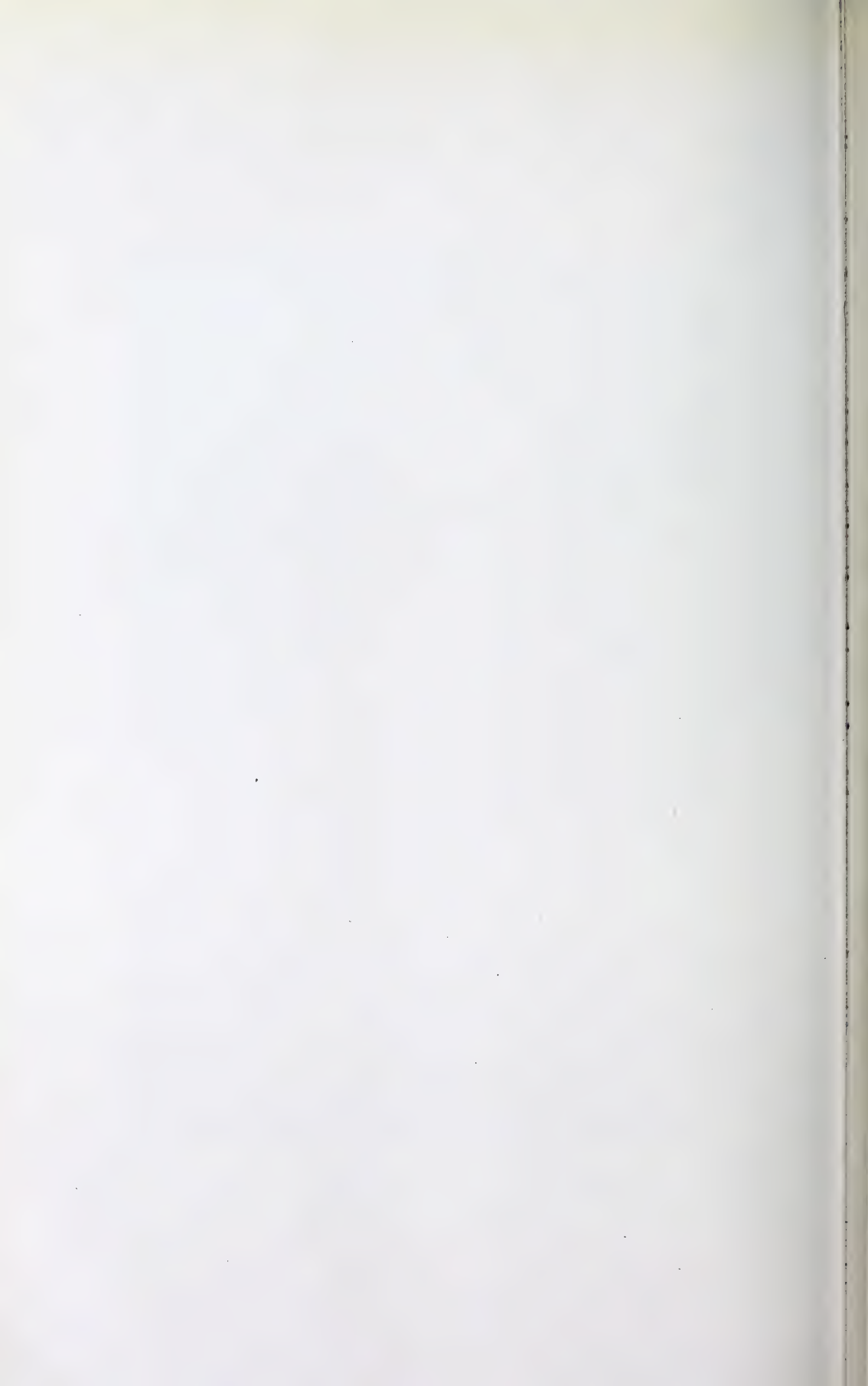
The Third Congregational Church in Medway was organized on December 7, 1836, with Rev. Luther Bailey as the first pastor. He served the society for several years, and when he withdrew the church was disbanded. Some of the members of this organization united with others in the formation of the Evangelical Congregational Church on September 7, 1838. A house of worship was erected in Medway Village and Rev. David Sanford was ordained as pastor. This church met with better success than its predecessor and is still in existence.

In Dover a number of the members of the old First Church grew dissatisfied with the doctrine preached by Rev. Ralph Sanger in 1838, and on the 28th of December of that year they organized the Second Congregational Church. Steps had previously been taken toward the building of a meeting house, which was formally dedicated on June 27, 1839. Rev. George Champion was the first pastor of this church. In 1878 the Dover and South Natick churches were consolidated by the Home Missionary Society, and the union lasted until May, 1880, when it was dissolved. The following month the Dover and Charles River societies



REV. SAMUEL DEXTER

One of the early pastors of the First Church, Dedham.



were united by the action of the Home Missionary Society, but in the fall of 1882 the latter withdrew, leaving the Dover Church to itself.

In the sketch of the Second Congregational Church of Weymouth reference is made to a division in that society in 1842. Those who withdrew formed the Union Church of South Weymouth on June 20, 1842, and the church was fully established on the first of the following November. At first meetings were held in Rogers' Hall, but before the close of the year a church building was completed. The first regular pastor of this church was Rev. George Denham, who was called to the pulpit on July 3, 1843. In 1870 a new church edifice was commenced and was completed the succeeding year, at a cost of \$40,000. A parsonage costing \$4,000 was also built about the same time.

The Congregational Church of East Weymouth was formed on March 4, 1843, by ten members who had withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church and organized a new society of that denomination. It became a Congregational Church on February 25, 1860. As a Congregational Church the society prospered and some twenty years after the change was made was the strongest church of that faith in the Town of Weymouth. When first established in 1843, a house of worship was erected, which was enlarged in the early '80s to accommodate the increase in attendance.

Early in the year 1844 a number of Brookline people who had been attending the First Church, or others outside the town, united and formed the Harvard Congregational Church. A house of worship was built on the corner of Washington and School streets and was dedicated on August 26, 1844, the sermon being preached by Rev. Edward N. Kirk, of Boston. On the same day the church was formally organized with twenty-seven members. Rev. Richard S. Storrs, Jr., was ordained pastor on October 22, 1844. The ordination sermon was preached by Mr. Storrs' father, who was then pastor of the Congregational Church in Braintree. In May, 1873, the present beautiful edifice was dedicated. Its cost was about sixty thousand dollars, two-thirds of which were given by Martin L. Hall.

In 1847 a church was built at Grantville (now Wellesley Hills) and on February 24, 1847, a Congregational Church was organized with thirty members. Rev. Harvey Newcomb was the first pastor of this society. The church building was remodeled in 1877.

What is known as the Pilgrim Congregational Church of North Weymouth was formed on May 14, 1851, and a house of worship was erected the same year. In May, 1852, Rev. Calvin Terry was called to the pulpit as the first regular pastor, services previous to that time having been held by such ministers as could be procured. In 1881 a parsonage was built and a little later the church edifice was remodeled.

The South Franklin Congregational Church is the outgrowth of meetings held in the schoolhouse in that part of the town during the summer of 1855. A Sunday school was first formed and on August 20, 1855, a council of churches met at the house of Willard C. Whiting. As a result of this council a Congregational Church was organized on the 13th of the following month with eighteen members. In the spring of 1856 the sum of \$1,500 was subscribed to a fund for the building of a meeting house. The corner-stone was laid on September 5, 1856, and the building was dedicated on July 25, 1857. For several

years the pulpit was supplied by various ministers, but the church at last grew strong enough to sustain a regular pastor.

In 1862 the Congregationalists living in that part of Cohasset called Beechwood began holding meetings in a hall. The meetings were conducted by Rev. Cyrus Stone and about a year later a church was organized. On October 18, 1866, the corner-stone of a church edifice was laid and the building was dedicated on January 15, 1867. This house stands near the line between Cohasset and Scituate and some of the members of the church live in the latter town. In June, 1917, the pastor of this church was Rev. L. M. Bosworth.

The Congregational Church of East Walpole dates its beginning from a meeting held at the house of Mrs. Selany Smith on April 28, 1877. After irregular services for more than three years, an ecclesiastical council met in Bird's Hall and the church was formally recognized. On April 20, 1881, it was admitted to full fellowship in the Suffolk South Conference of orthodox churches. In June, 1882, the first steps were taken toward the erection of a meeting house. William Rhodes and his wife donated a site in the following October and a house was erected at a cost of about twenty-two hundred dollars. It was dedicated on May 18, 1883, but has since been enlarged and remodeled.

The Oakdale Congregational Church was established in 1882, with Rev. C. B. Smith as pastor, and in the same year a small but comfortable house of worship was erected at the junction of East and Washington streets. This church is no longer in existence.

There are several Congregational churches in the county whose history has not been ascertained by the writer. The church at Wollaston was organized in 1876 and now has a neat edifice at the corner of Winthrop and Lincoln avenues. In Quincy there are the Atlantic Memorial, Bethany, Finnish, Swedish, Park and Downs Union and Washington Street Congregational churches, all owning church buildings and supplied with regular pastors. There is also a Congregational Church at Islington.

## CHAPTER XLIX

### CHURCH HISTORY, CONTINUED

EPISCOPAL CHURCH—METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—UNITARIAN CHURCH—THE  
UNIVERSALISTS—MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In 1701 a "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts" was organized in London. About 1728 this society appointed Rev. Timothy Cutler a missionary in America. Mr. Cutler was a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts, a graduate of Harvard College, had been pastor of a Congregational Church at Stratford, Connecticut, and upon his conversion to the doctrines of the Church of England was made rector of Yale College. In 1731 he was rector of Christ Church in Boston, and in that year conducted the first religious services according to the Episcopal ritual in Norfolk County in a house owned by Joseph Smith in westerly part of Dedham Village. Here he preached at intervals to a small audience until about Christmas, 1833, after which he visited the village only occasionally.

In 1758 a church building near the corner of Court and Church streets was commenced and the first services therein were conducted on Easter Sunday, 1761, by Rev. Ebenezer Miller, a resident of Braintree, who succeeded Mr. Cutler in charge of the society at Dedham. In August, 1767, Rev. William Clark began conducting the services in Dedham. He became a resident of Dedham in 1772. When the law was passed in 1777 forbidding prayers for the king of England, Mr. Clark closed his church. At a town meeting held on May 29, 1777, he and three members of his church were declared by vote to be inimical to the United States. On the fifth of June he was arrested and taken to Boston, where he was finally adjudged guilty and sentenced to banishment and confiscation of his estate. After being confined for nearly three months on a ship in Boston Harbor, he was released and returned to Dedham, but it does not appear that he attempted to conduct services. On June 10, 1778, he left Dedham, having obtained a passport through the influence of Dr. Nathaniel Ames, and went to England. After the war was over he returned and died at Quincy in 1815.

When first organized the church took the name of Christ Church. The building began in 1758 was not finished at the time of the Revolution and was made a depot for military stores. A minister by the name of Parker conducted services on a few occasions after the departure of Mr. Clark, but no real effort was made to reestablish the church until 1792, when Rev. William Montague came to Dedham. On February 19, 1792, Fisher Ames leased to the church two

tracts of land for 999 years. The church building was repaired and in 1797 it was removed to Franklin Square. In November, 1821, Rev. Isaac Boyle was installed as rector and the name of the church was changed to St. Paul's. The church building was totally destroyed by fire on December 7, 1856, and the present stone church, on the corner of Court Street and Village Avenue, was then erected, at a cost of \$30,480. The brick chapel on the opposite side of Court Street was built in 1875.

That services were conducted according to the Episcopal forms in Braintree as early as 1761 is certain, for in that year Rev. Ebenezer Miller, of Braintree is mentioned as succeeding to the charge of the services in Dedham. A small meeting house had been built as early as 1728. After Mr. Miller's death Rev. Edward Winslow was in charge of the Episcopal society in Braintree. The church was in the North Precinct (now Quincy) and in June, 1777, Mr. Winslow's name was among those presented to the selectmen "as inimical to the popular cause." He left the town and followed the British army to New York. After the Revolution the church was revived and is now known as Christ Church, of Quincy, with Rev. William Grainger as rector. The present house of worship is located on the corner of Quincy and Elm streets.

St. Chrysostom's Church in Quincy is situated on the corner of Hancock and Linden streets, with Rev. F. H. Stemstra as rector, and in the Town of Braintree the Episcopal Church of the present was organized in 1900. It owns no house of worship, services being conducted in the Masonic Temple.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brookline was organized in July, 1849, with Rev. William Horton as the first settled pastor. In 1850 a movement was started for the erection of a church building. Harrison Fay gave \$5,000 toward the fund and Augustus Aspinwall donated the site, at the junction of St. Paul Street and Aspinwall Avenue, and \$2,000 in addition. The total cost of the structure was \$25,000. In 1857, during the pastorate of Rev. John Seeley Stone, a chapel was built at a cost of \$6,000, of which \$4,000 were contributed by the women of the parish and \$1,000 was given by Mrs. Sarah P. Rogers of Boston. All Saints Church in Brookline was organized later and has a neat house of worship at the corner of Beacon Street and Dean Road.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Cohasset dates its beginning from April 26, 1893, in the Grand Army Hall. On June 4, 1893, the parish was organized and soon afterward Rev. Charles Ferguson was installed as rector. He was succeeded in 1895 by Rev. J. B. Thomas, who remained until 1898. On December 8, 1899, the corner-stone of the church edifice was laid by Bishop Lawrence and the building was consecrated in June, 1900, though the tower was not then finished. It is a handsome stone structure and stands upon a commanding eminence on North Main Street near the center of the village. In June, 1917, Rev. Howard K. Bartow was rector.

Christ's Church in Brookline was erected in 1860, at the private expense of David Sears, "to provide a Liturgy which shall comprehend those doctrines, and those only, which are essential to guide the mind in a right worship of God." The building is modeled after a church in Colchester, England, and is located on Colchester Street, Longwood. It is a handsome stone structure, with paneled walls and a large, square tower.

In June, 1865, St. Clement's Church was established in the East Parish of

Medway (now Millis), with Rev. Benjamin F. Cooley as the first rector. On February 5, 1871, the building was burned and was never rebuilt, but in 1874 a stone edifice was commenced in Medway Village. It was completed in 1880 and was given the name of Christ's Church. On Christmas evening, 1881, the first services in the building were conducted by Rev. John S. Beers, a missionary-at-large, and on January 8, 1882, Rev. Samuel Edwards became officiating missionary under the Diocesan Board of Missions.

The Episcopal Church in Wrentham was organized about 1878 or 1879 and soon afterward erected a building for purposes of worship. According to the town report for 1916, this society then owned property valued at \$6,000.

Trinity Episcopal Church of Canton was organized about 1890. A neat house of worship was erected a little later and is still used by the society. In June, 1917, the rector of this church was Rev. John H. deVries.

Episcopal services were conducted in Stoughton as early as 1769 by Rev. William Clark, who officiated on alternate Sundays in Stoughton and Dedham. A church was afterward established in Stoughton, but its history could not be ascertained. There is also an Episcopal Church in Norwood, and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dedham is located on the corner of Cedar street and Oakdale avenue.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodists did not gain much of a foothold in Norfolk County until about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. In 1800 a Methodist Church was built on Pine Plain, in what is now the Town of Wellesley. Rev. George Pickering was the first minister. The pulpit was supplied by circuit ministers for about forty years, when the church went down, owing to dissensions among the members.

In 1810 Rev. John Tinkham held services occasionally in Stoughton, at the house of Hezekiah Gay. A class was formed on January 30, 1812, and Stoughton was added to the list of appointments on the Mansfield and Easton circuit. In 1818 a church building was erected in West Stoughton and the society was formally organized. Stoughton became a station in 1834. At North Stoughton another class was formed in 1827 and preaching was held at the house of Elijah Gill. In 1835 some of the West Stoughton Methodists proposed to build a new church near the center of the town and asked the North Stoughton class to join in the movement. This North Stoughton declined to do and the result was the erection of two meeting houses—one at North Stoughton and the other at the center of the town. The latter cost about two thousand dollars and was dedicated on September 16, 1835. North Stoughton failed to receive a minister from the conference in 1836 and became a Protestant Methodist Church. The present Methodist Church in Stoughton Centre was built in 1866. A parsonage was also erected about the same time.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Cohasset was organized on December 17, 1817, part of the membership coming from Hingham. The first meeting house was dedicated in June, 1825. It was replaced by a new and more commodious building, which was dedicated on September 3, 1845, Rev. E. E. Taylor preaching the sermon. The church is located in North Cohasset.

In 1822, owing to trouble in the "Old North Church" of Weymouth, some of the members withdrew and early in 1823 formed the first Methodist class in the town. A meeting house was built in 1825 and the rapid growth of the society made the enlargement of this building necessary three years later. About 1833 a division arose and some of the members separated from the conference and organized a Protestant Methodist Church. Being in the majority, these members claimed the old church property and the others built a new Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844. It was enlarged in 1850 and was destroyed by fire on December 28, 1851. Another house of worship was soon erected and dedicated on October 12, 1852. This building also was burned on February 23, 1870, after which the present church edifice was built. A fine parsonage was built in 1867, three years before the burning of the second house of worship.

Another Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Weymouth is located at Lovell's Corner. It was organized as a Congregational Society in 1866 by Rev. D. W. Waldron, then pastor of the church at East Weymouth. A regular pastor was installed in 1872 in the person of Rev. Joseph C. Halliday, who remained with the church until July, 1877. For a few months there was no regular pastor, but in November, 1877, Rev. Henry P. Haylett, a student of the Boston University was engaged. Under his pastorate the church was changed to its present denominational connection.

About 1831 a few Methodists living in Braintree united in the formation of a class and meetings were held in Arnold's Hall, the services being conducted by such clergymen as could be obtained. Rev. Jefferson Hamilton was oftener thus engaged than any other minister, but he removed from the town after a few years. The organization appears in the town records as the "Methodist Episcopal Society of Braintree," though it is doubtful if a complete church organization was ever effected: After the departure of Mr. Hamilton the class tried to obtain the town hall in which to hold meetings, but the request was refused by the selectmen and soon afterward the little society disbanded.

On February 22, 1874, the present Methodist Episcopal Church in East Braintree was organized, with Rev. Louis E. Charpiot as pastor. Soon after the organization of the society the building formerly used by the First Baptist Church was purchased and used as a house of worship until the latter part of the year 1883, when it was destroyed by fire. The present church building was then erected. The pastor of this church at the beginning of 1917 was Rev. Earle M. Rugg. There is also a Methodist Church in South Braintree, organized about the close of the last century. Rev. O. W. Reynolds was pastor of this church in June, 1917.

On October 12, 1843, a Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in East Dedham. Rev. Enoch Mudge and Rev. Timothy Merritt, two Methodist ministers, had held services in the town at intervals since 1817, and in 1825 a class of twenty members was formed, most of whom belonged to the church in Dorchester. After the organization of the society in 1842, meetings were held for a time in Trescott's Hall. The original church building was twice enlarged, and was then replaced by the handsome stone structure on the corner of Oakdale avenue and Fairview street. The society is now known as the "First Methodist Episcopal Church of Dedham."

The Methodist Church of Franklin was organized in April, 1872, though the

first services of that faith were held in the town as early as 1853 by Rev. John M. Merrill, who preached several times in the town hall and gathered a considerable congregation. He was succeeded by Rev. Pliny Wood in 1855, and the next year Rev. M. P. Webster took up the work. In 1857 the conference declined to furnish a minister and nothing further was done until 1871, when meetings were again started under the charge of Rev. John R. Cushing, which led to the organization of the church the following April. The corner-stone of the church building was laid on October 3, 1872, and the house was dedicated on June 25, 1873.

On July 19, 1857, the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Medway was organized and Rev. William Jackson was installed as pastor. A house of worship was erected in West Medway, where the society still holds services.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Highlandville (now Needham Heights) was organized in April, 1867, with Rev. John W. Coolidge as the first pastor. Before the organization of this society, the Methodists living in the vicinity had been accustomed to worship at Newton Upper Falls. Thirty-four members of that church then became identified with the Needham Heights Church and meetings were held in a hall. The church building was dedicated in 1876. It cost about ten thousand dollars and in 1884 the debt that had hung over it from the time of its completion was canceled.

In the spring of 1873 the Washington Street Methodist Church of Brookline was organized and the old house of worship that had been erected by the Harvard Congregational Church was purchased for \$24,500. It was refitted and Rev. E. D. Winslow was appointed by the conference as the first pastor. In 1876 the house was sold and the society held services in the town hall until May, 1879, when the site of the present church was purchased and the building erected at a cost of \$2,657. It was dedicated in September of that year.

The Methodist Church of Walpole Centre was formed in 1874 with twelve members. A Mr. Noon was the first preacher, but was succeeded at the end of one year by Rev. J. H. Vincent. About 1882 the society bought the lot adjoining the town house and a chapel was erected thereon. It was afterward enlarged and remodeled into its present form.

Methodism had been introduced in Walpole as early as 1818, when Rev. Benjamin Haines began holding meetings in South Walpole. A class was formed the next year and in 1822 a church was organized. The first house of worship was built in 1830 on the lot where the parsonage was afterward located. The second and present church edifice was dedicated in 1846.

On the evening of July 26, 1878, a few Methodists living in the Town of Holbrook held an informal meeting, at which it was decided to organize a class and hold weekly meetings. Interest in the class meetings developed to such an extent under the leadership of Rev. Joshua Monroe, of West Abington, that a church was organized on February 11, 1879, by Rev. D. A. Whedon, presiding elder of the Providence District. Services were held in Library Hall until that was burned on April 13, 1880, and then in the committee room of the town building. On February 8, 1882, the first house of worship was dedicated. It is thirty-one by fifty feet and cost \$2,275.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Norwood was organized on June 26, 1887, and the church edifice near the corner of Dat and Washington streets was

erected soon afterward. A Methodist Church was organized in Sharon in 1876.

There are four Methodist Churches in Quincy, viz.: The Hall Place Church, which was organized in 1872, in West Quincy. Rev. W. H. Germany was the pastor of this church in the spring of 1917. The First Wollaston Church, located on the corner of Beale and Safford streets, with Rev. George M. Bailey as pastor in 1917. The Atlantic Church, at the junction of East Squantum and Hunt streets; and St. Paul's Swedish Methodist Church on Fort Street.

#### UNITARIAN CHURCHES

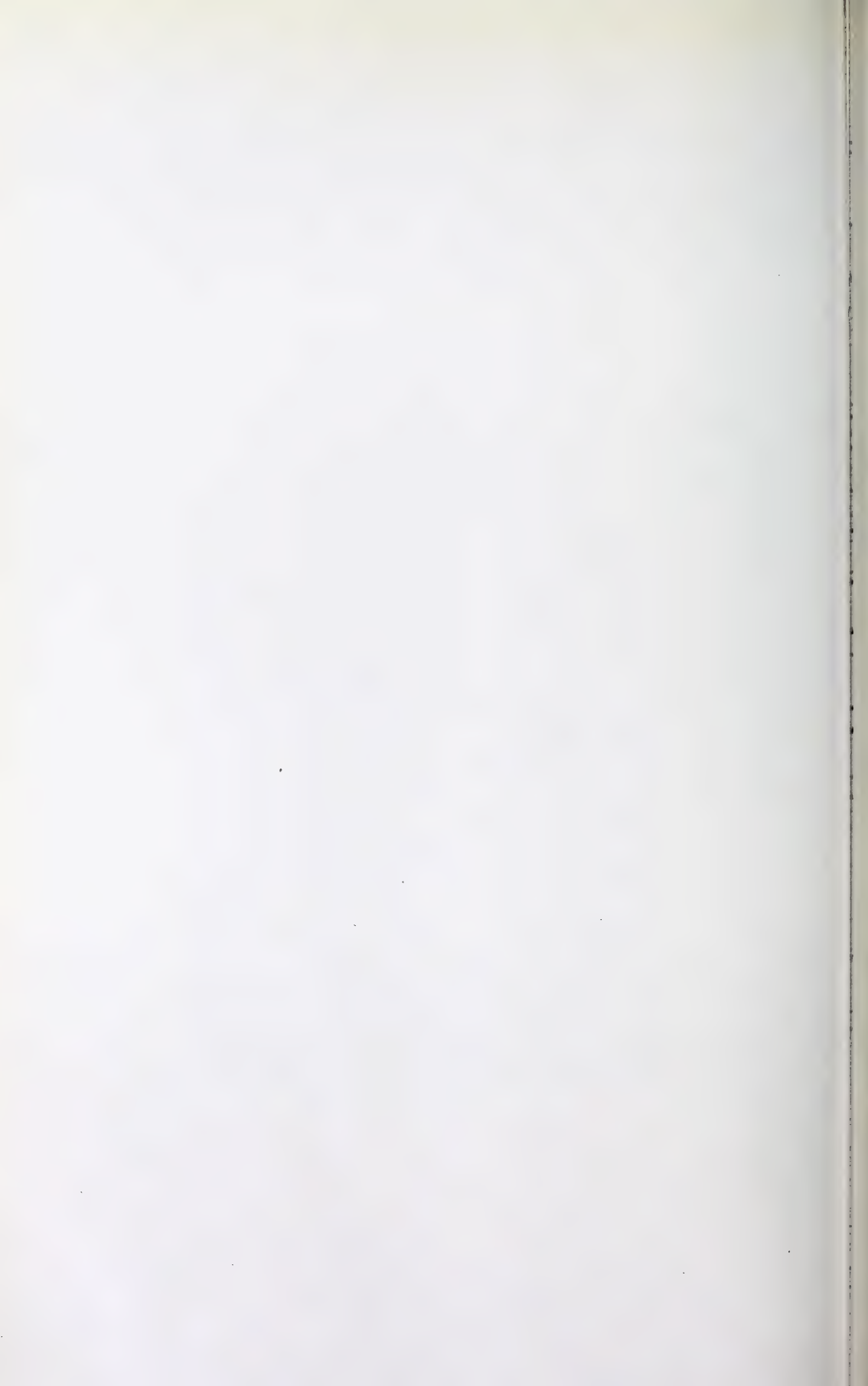
The oldest Unitarian Church in Norfolk County is the First Parish Church of Dedham, which according to the Unitarian Year Book for 1917 was organized in 1636, though Erastus Worthington's History of Dedham and Mann's Annals both give the date of organization as November 8, 1638. The first pastor of the church was Rev. John Allin, who was ordained on April 24, 1639, and remained with the church until his death on August 26, 1671. The pastors who succeeded Mr. Allin were: William Adams, 1673-1685; Joseph Belcher, 1693-1723; Samuel Dexter, 1724-1755; Jason Haven, 1756-1803; Joshua Bates, 1803-1818; Alvan Lamson, 1818-1860. As told in the preceding chapter, in connection with the Dedham Congregational Church, it was at the time of the election of Mr. Lamson that a division occurred in the parish. Concerning this division Worthington says: "As it often happens in public discussions, the real points of difference were kept in reserve. But there can be no doubt that the parish and the church were then divided into two religious parties, known afterwards under the distinctive names of Unitarian and Orthodox. Mr. Lamson was a graduate of the Divinity School of Harvard College and was a Unitarian. The Rev. Dr. Henry Ware, who preached the ordination sermon, had been elected in 1805 Hollis professor of divinity as a Unitarian, and Doctor Channing, who was one of the council, had his celebrated controversy with Doctor Worcester in 1815, which resulted in the separation of the Unitarian from the Orthodox Congregationalists. All the members of the ordaining council represented churches which were either at that time or afterwards became Unitarian."

That portion of the parish which accepted Mr. Lamson as pastor retained possession of the church property and has since been known as a Unitarian Church. The first meeting house was finished in 1646. It was afterward enlarged and in 1673 was replaced by a new one. In 1762, while Rev. Jason Haven was pastor, a new house of worship was erected. After the division in 1818, the house was enlarged, and in 1857 it was again remodeled. It is still used by the society. Rev. William H. Parker is the present pastor.

The Unitarian Church of the First Parish in Quincy was originally the parish church of Braintree. The Unitarian Year Book for 1917 says it was organized in 1636, but Samuel A. Bates, who was well informed on the subject of Braintree history, gives the date of its establishment as September 16, 1639, and Charles Francis Adams, in writing of the present church edifice says: "Thus, when the meeting house of 1732 was removed in 1828, the visible emblem which connected the modern with the colonial town may be said to have disappeared. The connecting link between the two chains was broken. The period, therefore, of one hundred and eighty-nine years which elapsed after the gathering of the



UNITARIAN CHURCH, DEDHAM



First Church of Braintree, and before the pulling down and moving away of the third meeting house in Quincy, must historically be considered by itself."

Going back 189 years from 1828 would establish the year of organization as 1639, which agrees with the statement of Mr. Bates. Rev. William Tompson was the first settled minister. He remained with the church for nineteen years. He was succeeded by Henry Flint (or Flynt) in 1659, but lived only one year and four months after becoming pastor.

In 1708 the Town of Braintree was divided into precincts and the church became the North Precinct Church, remaining so until the incorporation of the Town of Quincy in 1792. From 1792 to 1820 it was known as the Quincy Church. Among the pastors while the North Precinct Church was Rev. John Hancock, father of the John Hancock who was president of the Continental Congress at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and afterward governor of Massachusetts. Mr. Hancock was ordained on November 2, 1726, and served as pastor until his death in May, 1744. The present pastor is Rev. Adelbert L. Hudson.

The Unitarian Church of Medfield was established in 1651, with Rev. John Wilson as the settled minister. Mr. Wilson built his house where the town hall was afterward erected. For the first two or three years services were held in the homes of the settlers. In 1653 a meeting house was commenced, but it was not finished until three years later. It was a small building, with a thatched roof, and stood where the present Unitarian Church is now located. Rev. Joseph Baxter succeeded Mr. Wilson in 1697, and in 1706 the old meeting house was replaced by a new one, which served the society for eighty-three years. In 1827 several members of this church asked for and were granted letters of dismissal. They then formed an orthodox Congregational Church. In 1874 the church building was remodeled, at a cost of \$6,000. Rev. Leonard Cushman was pastor of this church at the beginning of the year 1917.

Milton was incorporated as a town in 1662, but no regular church was organized until April 24, 1678, though Robert Vose had deeded eight acres of land in 1664 "for a meeting house and other ministerial purposes," to a board of trustees. A meeting house was built in 1672 and Rev. Thomas Mighill, who had conducted services since 1660, closed his labors in the town and went to Scituate. Rev. Joseph Emerson had also preached at various times prior to the organization of the church and the erection of the meeting house. Rev. Samuel Mann (or Man), who was driven out of Wrentham by King Philip's war, acted as pastor for about two years, and in 1681 Rev. Peter Thacher was settled as minister. He continued as pastor for forty-six years.

On October 3, 1785, a town meeting voted to build a new meeting house, 52 by 66 feet. It was dedicated on New Year's day, 1788, and served the congregation for one hundred years or more. It was then practically rebuilt. Rev. Roderick Stebbins is the present pastor.

On Christmas day in 1711 the Town of Needham voted to build a house for public worship and appropriated eighty pounds for that purpose, "one-half to be paid in money and the other half in labor." The frame was raised in 1712, but the house was not finished until the following year. Services were held in it, however, before it was fully completed. On the night of October 17, 1773, the meeting house was destroyed by fire and a controversy immediately arose

over the location of a new one. This resulted in the town being divided into two precincts. In the old parish a new house of worship was ready for use in the latter part of July, 1774, though it was not finished for some time after that date. It was taken down in 1835 and part of the timbers used in the construction of the present church edifice. In 1879 the building was removed to its present location. The present pastor is Rev. Arthur W. Littlefield.

The present Unitarian Church of Canton was organized as a Congregational Church on October 13, 1717, and Rev. Joseph Morse was then ordained as pastor. In 1727 he was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Dunbar, who remained with the church until his death on June 15, 1783, a period of almost fifty-six years. A small meeting house had been built before the church was organized in 1717, but it was replaced by a new one, which was dedicated on January 26, 1825. Rev. Bradley Gilman was pastor of this church in June, 1917.

On October 26, 1717, the First Unitarian Church of Brookline was organized with thirty-nine members by Rev. Ebenezer Thayer of the Roxbury Church. A meeting house was soon afterward built and on November 5, 1718, Rev. James Allen was installed as the first pastor. The present house of worship of this society is located on the corner of Walnut and Warren streets, with Rev. Abbot Peterson as pastor.

Cohasset was set off as the Second Parish of Hingham on November 21, 1717, and at the first precinct meeting on August 11, 1718, it was voted to raise twenty-five pounds for the support of a minister. The church was not fully organized until 1721, Rev. Nehemiah Hobart, "who had preached several times," being ordained as pastor on December 13, 1721, the day following the organization. A meeting house had been built by the residents about eight years before the church was established. A new house was erected in 1747. The present pastor of this church is Rev. William R. Cole.

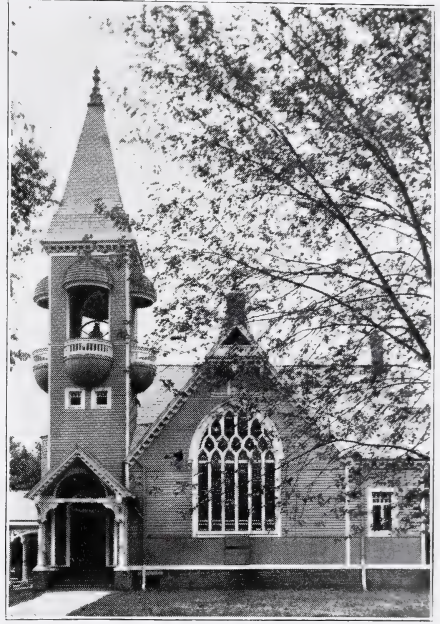
What is now the Unitarian Church of Walpole was organized as a Congregational Church in 1724, and on March 30, 1725, the town meeting voted to erect "a suitable house for public worship." Pending the completion of the meeting house, services were held in the homes of some of the citizens. The first regular settled minister was Rev. Joseph Belcher, who accepted a call on May 17, 1728. He was dismissed by vote of the town on May 5, 1729, and the following October Rev. Phillips Payson was ordained as his successor. He continued as pastor until his death on January 22, 1778. In 1781 it was voted to build a new meeting house on the site of the old one. The new structure was completed in 1791 and Rev. George Morey came to the church as pastor. About 1839 the meeting house was removed to its present location and remodeled.

A new church was established in the western part of Dedham on June 4, 1735, and after a parish was incorporated on January 10, 1736, it took the name "The Clapboard Trees Church." On the day the church was organized Rev. Josiah Dwight was installed as pastor. A meeting house had been commenced before that time, but it was not finished until 1736. In 1808, when the division occurred over the location of a new meeting house, those that remained with the original church built the present house of worship, which was dedicated on March 1, 1809. It is now known as the Westwood Unitarian Church, of which Rev. Alfred C. Nickerson is pastor.

The Unitarian Church of Sharon dates its beginning from the year 1740,



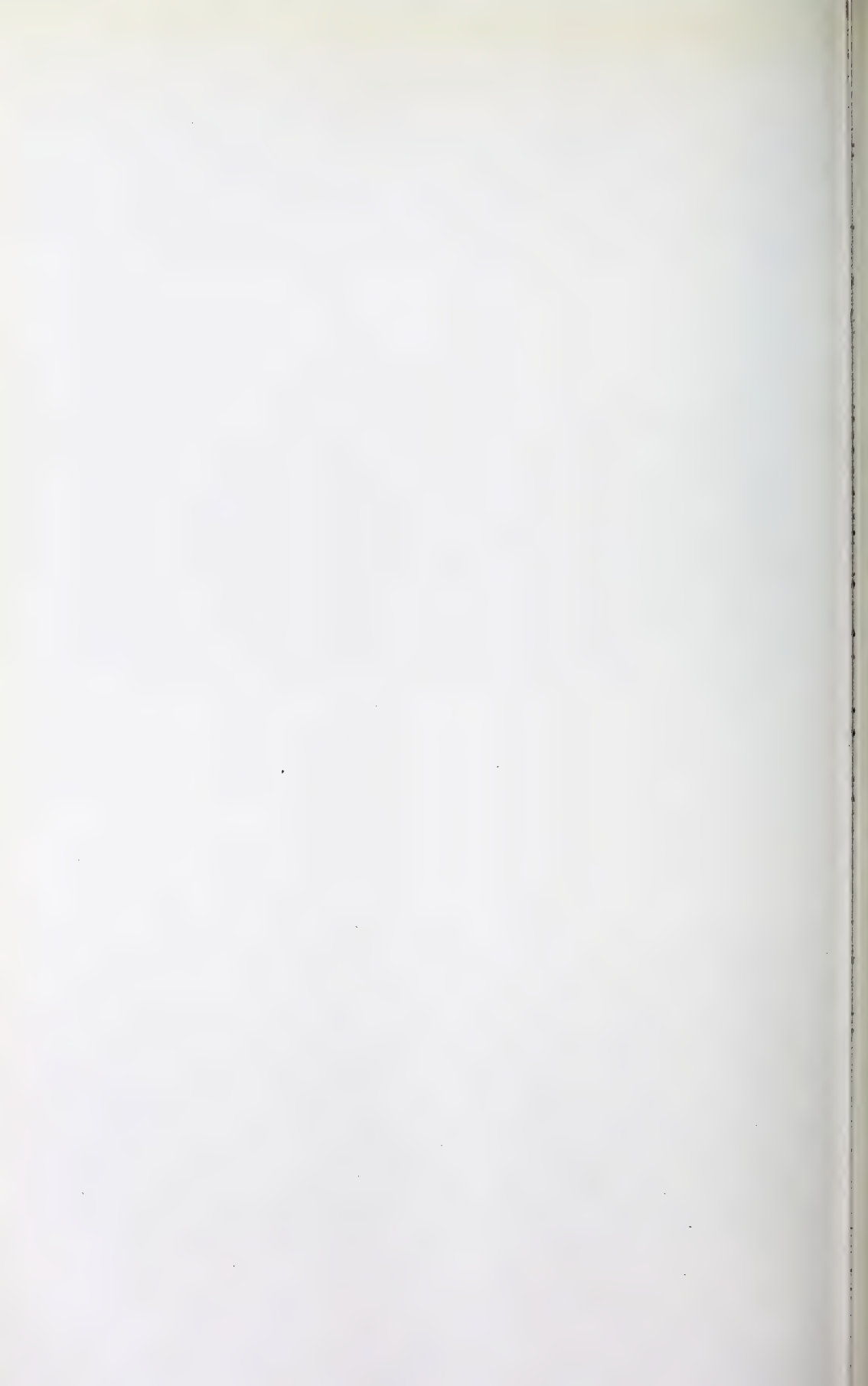
BAPTIST CHURCH, NEEDHAM



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NEEDHAM



UNITARIAN CHURCH, NEEDHAM



when the town was set off as the Second Precinct of Stoughton and the church was organized as a Congregational society. The first meeting house was commenced the same year, but was not finished until 1744. Rev. Philip Curtis was the first regular pastor. A new meeting house was built in 1787. In 1821 part of the members withdrew and formed the Christian Society (Trinitarian), of which Rev. Joseph B. Felt was the first minister. At that time Rev. Samuel Brimblecom was pastor of the old precinct church, which had in the meantime adopted the Unitarian doctrine and is known as a Unitarian organization.

Dover was set off as the Fourth Parish of Dedham in 1748 and incorporated under the name of Springfield. On March 14, 1749, a precinct meeting voted to appropriate twenty-five pounds to pay for three months' preaching and a committee was appointed to procure a minister. It was also voted to build a meeting house 34 by 42 feet. The building was completed in due time and on March 20, 1754, a precinct meeting was held within its walls. Rev. Thomas Jones was the first minister, who preached thirteen Sundays in the spring of 1749. Probably because the twenty-five pounds voted for three months' preaching was exhausted, no further services were held until the year 1754, when the grand jury of Suffolk County warned the inhabitants to give reasons for this neglect. During the next six years services were irregularly held by various ministers. In 1762 the General Court admonished the people that they must settle a minister. Accordingly, on November 10, 1762, Rev. Benjamin Caryl was ordained as pastor. The meeting house was burned on January 20, 1839, and the present house of worship was completed within the next eight months. Rev. Daniel M. Wilson was pastor in 1917.

In December, 1869, a few Unitarians living in the vicinity of Grantville engaged Rev. A. B. Vorse to conduct services and a tentative organization was formed. In 1871 Maugus Hall was purchased by the society and the organization of the church dates from that year. It is now known as the Wellesley Hills Unitarian Church.

There are several other Unitarian Churches in the county, the history of which the writer was unable to learn. The Wollaston Church was organized in 1888 and in 1917 the pastor was Rev. Carl G. Horst. Mr. Horst was also at that time the pastor of the Church of the Unity, which was organized at Randolph in 1889. The second Unitarian Society of Brookline was formed in 1896 and the church edifice on the corner of Sewell Avenue and Charles Street was soon afterward erected. Rev. Thomas Van Ness is the present pastor. All Souls Unitarian Church of Braintree was established in 1900. This society has a neat chapel on Elm Street, with Rev. Frank A. Powell as pastor.

#### THE UNIVERSALISTS

The oldest Universalist Church in Norfolk County is the one located at Stoughton. It was incorporated on August 10, 1744, as the orthodox Congregational Church of the Third Precinct. On December 26, 1744, it was voted to build a meeting house, in which the first service was held on May 23, 1745. While it was under construction Rev. Thomas Jones preached for three months, and on January 5, 1746, Rev. Jedediah Adams was installed as pastor. He continued with the church until 1792, when Rev. Edward Richmond was ordained.

On January 7, 1818, Rev. Ebenezer Gay was ordained as pastor and it was under his pastorate that the differences arose that finally resulted in a division of the church. He was a strict Calvinist and quite a number of the members soon grew dissatisfied with his teaching. The previous pastors—Adams and Richmond—had been rather liberal in their views, but with Mr. Gay there was no compromise. Samuel Bird, who leaned toward Universalism, was excommunicated. This did not improve the situation any, and on July 3, 1822, a formal separation took place. In the meantime a new house of worship had been built and dedicated on June 2, 1808. This building was left in the hands of the minority and Rev. Ephraim Randall served as pastor until the annual parish meeting in 1825. In 1826 it was voted to have eight months' Unitarian preaching and four months' Universalist. Rev. William L. Stearns, a Unitarian, was settled as pastor in October, 1827, and remained until dismissed by the society on December 13, 1830. At that time the church became a Universalist organization, with Rev. Massena B. Ballou as pastor. The Unitarians then withdrew and started a society of their own, but it was not long until they returned to the church and accepted the Universalist doctrine. The church building was remodeled in 1848, and in 1870 it was practically rebuilt, at a cost of over eleven thousand dollars.

On January 26, 1819, the "Norfolk Universalist Society" was organized at the home of George Downs in Canton, with nearly one hundred members, from Canton, Stoughton, Sharon, Milton and Dedham. Meetings were held in Leavitt's Hall and the old town hall until 1848, when the first steps were taken for the erection of a meeting house. It was dedicated on February 3, 1849, when the name of the organization was changed to the "First Universalist Church of Canton." In June, 1917, the pastor of this society was Rev. Isabella Macduff.

The Norwood Universalist Church was incorporated in response to a petition dated October 8, 1827, and signed by Jeremiah Draper and thirteen others. It was at first known as the Universalist Church of the South Parish of Dedham. Services had been held prior to that time by Rev. Thomas Whittemore, Rev. T. B. Thayer, Rev. Hosea Ballou and others. Soon after the incorporation of the society steps were taken to erect a house of worship, which was dedicated on June 14, 1830. Rev. Alfred V. Bassett was then installed as the first regular pastor. On April 22, 1863, the old church building was sold to the Catholics and a new one was erected on the corner of Washington and Nahatan streets. It was completed in 1864, at a cost of over sixteen thousand dollars, and is still occupied by the society.

The First Universalist Church of Quincy was organized in 1832. A church building was erected soon afterward. This building was offered to the town in 1844 for a town hall, but the offer was declined. The present church is on the corner of Elm and Washington streets.

A Universalist society was organized in Braintree in 1833, chiefly through the efforts of Samuel V. Arnold, who gave the use of his hall for holding meetings. Upon the death of Mr. Arnold the society was disbanded.

In the early part of the year 1836 some of the citizens of Weymouth Landing grew somewhat restive under the teachings of the pastor of the Union Church, and on July 21, 1836, organized the First Universalist Society of Weymouth. Rev. Matthew H. Smith was engaged to preach on alternate Sundays in Wales'

Hall. On September 13, 1839, the church edifice was dedicated, having just been completed at a cost of \$6,400. Rev. Calvin Gardner conducted services in the new house for three Sundays, and in November, 1839, Rev. John S. Barry was installed as pastor. During the next ten years no fewer than six ministers were called to the pulpit, and for about two years during the Civil war no regular services were held.

The Second Universalist Society of South Weymouth began holding meetings in Columbian Hall in 1835 (during the controversy in the Second Congregational Church), with Rev. Sylvanus Cobb in charge. At that time there was no society and there was considerable opposition to the movement on the part of many of the people of South Weymouth. In 1848 the "Washington Corporation" was formed, out of which grew the Second Universalist Church, and in 1849 Rev. John Parker became the first regular pastor. The next year a house of worship was erected.

Universalist services were held in Foxboro in the latter '30s by visiting ministers and a small society formed. In 1843 the Universalist Church, at the head of Bird street and facing the Common, was erected and Rev. Charles W. Mellen was installed as pastor. The church building originally had a spire, but it was blown away by a storm and was never replaced.

On November 19, 1853, the Third Universalist Society of North Weymouth was organized, though the first regular pastor, Rev. R. L. Killam, began his labors on April 1, 1855. The meetings were held on alternate Sundays in Harmonial Hall, Mr. Killam preaching at Scituate on the other Sundays. From 1859 to 1871 the society had no regular pastor, services being conducted by such ministers as could be procured from time to time. On April 1, 1871, Rev. G. W. Skinner, of Quincy, was installed and remained one year, when he was followed by Rev. G. W. Whitney. During his pastorate a meeting house was built. It was dedicated on January 16, 1873, and on the 28th of June following the society was reorganized with a membership of twenty-two.

The Universalist Church of Franklin was organized on October 4, 1856, under the name of "Grace Church." Meetings were at first held in the town hall. Dr. Oliver Dean gave a liberal donation to the new church and on May 5, 1858, a church building was dedicated. Its cost was about seven thousand dollars. In 1873 the present church edifice, directly in the rear of the first one, was dedicated. It is one of the finest churches in the county and cost \$52,000. The first settled pastor was Rev. A. N. Adams, who was installed the day the first church building was dedicated. The Franklin Church is one of the strongest Universalist churches in the county. There is also a Universalist Church in Brookline.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

In Milton there are two Evangelical churches. The First Evangelical Society is an offshoot of the orthodox church established in 1678. It was organized in 1834 by Rev. Samuel Gile, pastor of the First Parish, who with a number of the members withdrew to form the new church. Rev. Albert K. Teele was pastor of this church for a quarter of a century.

The Second Evangelical Society was organized on November 9, 1843, at what

was then known as "Railway Village," now East Milton. The first regular pastor of this organization was Rev. Edwin Leonard, who was installed on March 25, 1852.

The New Jerusalem Church of Brookline was established in 1852 by a few members of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem who were residents of Brookline. Services were at first held in the town hall. A complete organization was effected in April, 1857, when Rev. T. B. Hayward was installed as pastor. In 1862 a temple was built at the corner of High and Irving streets. It is a neat Gothic structure, the walls of stone and the interior finish of oak. A parsonage was built in 1882.

One of the most attractive church edifices in the county is the Church of Our Saviour at Brookline, the parish of which was organized on February 19, 1868, by Amos Lawrence and a few others. The church building was erected by Amos A. and William B. Lawrence and presented to the parish as a memorial to their father. It is located at the corner of Carleton and Monmouth streets.

Along in the early '70s a few members of the New Jerusalem or Swedenborgian Church began holding meetings in Franklin, at the house of J. A. Woodward, but there is no record of a society ever having been regularly organized.

In Quincy there are two Presbyterian churches. The First Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Quincy and Water streets, was organized on November 19, 1884. Rev. C. E. Campbell was pastor of this church in June, 1917. The First United Presbyterian Church is located at Fort Square and is under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. H. Sankey.

The Pope Memorial Church at Cohasset was built in 1890 as a memorial to Charles L. Pope, who was one of the town's active and influential citizens in his day; there is a Jewish synagogue on Winthrop street in West Medway; in Quincy there is a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church located on Granite street, with Rev. Leander Hokenson as the present pastor; and the Ponkapoag Chapel in Canton is under the pastoral charge of Rev. David W. Dunlap.

Within recent years the growth of the Christian Science Church has been almost remarkable. In several of the Norfolk County towns services have been conducted according to the doctrines of this denomination. On June 3, 1917, a handsome edifice of Quincy granite, with trimmings of Indiana limestone, was dedicated as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Quincy. It is located on Greenleaf street, is one of the most attractive church buildings in the county, and cost in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars.

In this chapter and the preceding one, the object has been to give in a general way the leading incidents in the religious development of the county. When it is remembered that there are more than one hundred and fifty church organizations in the county, many of them over two hundred years old, it will be seen that to go into a detailed history of each would require more space than a work of this nature could be expected to devote to the subject. It is possible that a few religious organizations have been omitted. This has not been done intentionally, but because not enough information concerning them could be obtained to give an intelligent account of their establishment and career.

## CHAPTER L

### FRATERNAL SOCIETIES, ETC.

MASONIC FRATERNITY—NORFOLK COUNTY MASONRY—THE HIGHER DEGREES—ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR—INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS—ODD FELLOWSHIP IN NORFOLK COUNTY—ENCAMPMENTS—DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—NORFOLK COUNTY KNIGHTS—GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—NORFOLK COUNTY POSTS—WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS—MISCELLANEOUS SOCIETIES—SOCIAL AND LITERARY CLUBS.

In writing the history of any particular fraternal order for such a work as this, it is well to bear in mind that the members of the order can obtain a much better account of the local organizations from the lodge records, while those who are not members, are, as a rule, but little interested in the matter. The aim, therefore, in this chapter is to give a general history of each of the leading fraternal societies, with brief accounts of the Norfolk County lodges, rather than to go into an extended account of the lodges alone. This treatment of the subject, it is believed, will prove to be of more interest, both to the members of the order and to outsiders.

#### MASONIC FRATERNITY

There is no doubt that Freemasonry is first entitled to recognition, as being the oldest, most widely distributed, and probably the strongest of the fraternal organizations. Tradition carries the origin of the fraternity back to the Pythagoreans, the Essenes, the Carmathites and similar organizations of ancient times. It is quite possible that certain features of the rituals of these ancient brotherhoods were incorporated into the ceremonies of the guilds of stonemasons and builders during the Middle Ages. That was the era of church and cathedral building, when members of these guilds traveled over Europe under the patronage of the church. They were invested with certain privileges not granted to masons who were not members, hence the term "Free Masons." Toward the close of the church-building period, members of these guilds banded themselves together into a society for friendly intercourse and mutual benefit, and it is practically established that this ancient fraternal society is the parent of modern Freemasonry.

The order is said to have been introduced into England about 930 A. D. by Athelstan. A few years later a convention of Masons at York adopted a code of laws, which it is claimed forms the basis of all later Masonic institutions. In 1275 a convention of the traveling guilds was held at Strassburg, and about a century later the members of the guilds were divided into three classes—

Apprentices, Craftsmen and Master Workmen. From England and Continental Europe the order found its way to Scotland, where the oldest known Masonic Lodge in the world is now to be found, viz.: Mother Kilwinning Lodge, the records of which date back to the year 1599.

Four lodges of English Masons sent delegates to a convention in London on June 24, 1717, at which time the English Grand Lodge was organized. At that time there was but one degree in the order, but in 1724 the English Grand Lodge adopted the classification of the guilds near the close of the Fourteenth Century and prepared a ritual including the degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. These three degrees constitute what is called the "Blue Lodge" of the present day.

On June 5, 1730, Daniel Coxe of Burlington, New Jersey, received a commission as "Provincial Grand Master of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in America." The commission was issued by the Duke of Norfolk, then the English Grand Master. St. John's Lodge at Philadelphia was organized by Mr. Coxe in the fall of 1730, the first Masonic lodge to be organized in America. On April 30, 1733, Viscount Montague, then Grand Master of England, commissioned Maj. Henry Price of Boston "Provisional Grand Master of New England," and before the close of that year Major Price organized a lodge at Boston. This was the first Masonic lodge in New England organized under the authority of the English Grand Lodge. After the Revolution, the Masonic lodges in America severed their connection with the English Grand Lodge and each state organized a grand lodge of its own.

#### NORFOLK COUNTY MASONRY

Rising Star Lodge, located at Stoughton, is the oldest Masonic lodge in Norfolk County. It was instituted on December 10, 1799, with Peter Adams as the first worshipful master; Benjamin Capen, senior warden; Joseph Richards, junior warden; Abraham Capen, secretary. Paul Revere, who had joined the order some time previous, was present at the organization of this lodge. In March, 1810, the lodge was removed to Canton, thence to Sharon in 1814, and back to Stoughton in December, 1817. During the anti-Masonic excitement of 1830-32, Rising Star Lodge never missed a meeting. It now meets on the second Thursday of each month in regular session, special meetings being called as occasion requires.

Rural Lodge was organized in Randolph on June 8, 1801. William P. Whiting was the first worshipful master; Jonathan Wales, Jr., senior warden; Thomas French, Jr., junior warden. In December, 1803, a petition to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was prepared, asking permission to remove the lodge to Quincy. The petition was granted and the lodge went to Quincy, where it is still in existence and holds regular meetings on the first Thursday evening of each month.

Constellation Lodge, located at Dedham, was organized first on March 18, 1802, with Dr. Nathaniel Ames as the first worshipful master. For a few years the lodge prospered and on June 24, 1829, a Masonic building, on the north side of Church Street near Norfolk Street, was dedicated. At that time the anti-Masonic sentiment was just beginning to develop throughout the country. As a

result of the opposition, Constellation Lodge surrendered its charter about 1842. Five years later the Church Street building was sold.

The lodge was reorganized under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge dated February 9, 1871. Frederick D. Ely was the first worshipful master after the reorganization. The lodge is now in a prosperous condition and holds meetings regularly on the top floor of Memorial Hall.

St. Alban's Lodge of Foxboro was chartered in 1818 and is still in existence. It has a well furnished hall and holds its regular meetings on the Monday evening on or before the full moon in each month.

Blue Hill Lodge at Canton is the outgrowth of the removal of Rising Star Lodge back to Stoughton in 1817. The Masons living in Canton a few years later petitioned the Grand Lodge for permission to organize a lodge at Canton. A dispensation was granted and from that time to the present Blue Hill Lodge has had a steady growth.

Orphans' Hope Lodge was instituted on June 8, 1825, at Weymouth Landing, the charter being granted to "John Edson and others." John Edson was the first worshipful master and Timothy Gordon the first secretary. During the anti-Masonic excitement, the charter of this lodge was surrendered in 1830, but on September 10th it was reissued and the lodge was reorganized. The reorganized lodge met at North Weymouth for a time, then removed to East Weymouth, where a hall was built about 1884. Regular meetings of this lodge are now held on the third Wednesday evening of each month. A fine, new temple has recently been erected for the use of the Masonic bodies of Weymouth.

Orient Lodge of Norwood was instituted under a charter from the Grand Lodge dated March 16, 1862. Owing to the Civil war, the growth of the lodge was slow for a few years, but it is now one of the strongest Masonic organizations in the county. A handsome temple was completed in 1917, at a cost of over sixty thousand dollars. The regular meetings of Orient Lodge are held on the second Monday evening of each month.

Konohasset Lodge, located at Cohasset, was instituted in June, 1865, with twelve charter members, four of whom lived in the Town of Scituate. George Beal, Jr., was the first worshipful master. About 1892 the lodge erected a building on Elm Street with two store rooms on the main floor and a hall above. Here regular meetings are held on Friday evening on or before each full moon. In 1917 Peter W. Sharp was worshipful master and E. L. Stevens, secretary.

Delta Lodge of Braintree was organized on July 2, 1869, at Weymouth Landing. This lodge is the outgrowth of the removal of Orphans' Hope Lodge to North Weymouth after its reorganization. The first meeting of Delta Lodge was held on May 12, 1868, at which time the Grand Lodge was asked for a dispensation to institute a lodge. The dispensation was granted, with Edward Avery as the first worshipful master and C. G. Thompson as the first secretary. The regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month.

Beth-horan Lodge was organized at Brookline in 1870 by Masons of that town who belonged to the lodges in Roxbury and Boston. George F. Homer was the first worshipful master. Starting with fifteen charter members, this lodge now has a membership of several hundred and owns its home, one of the best appointed in Eastern Massachusetts. Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month.

Cassia Lodge was instituted at Medfield in 1823. Academy Hall was purchased and fitted up for a lodge room. In 1845, for some reason, the lodge surrendered its charter and the building was sold to the town for school purposes. Some of the members of this lodge afterward joined Charles River Lodge at Medway, which is still in existence.

Norfolk Lodge, located at Needham, was organized under dispensation on April 6, 1874, with Emery Grover as the first master. It was instituted under a charter dated July 1, 1875. This lodge has been twice burned out—in May, 1882, and May, 1887. Notwithstanding these mishaps, it now numbers about three hundred members and holds regular meetings on the second Monday evening of each month.

Excelsior Lodge, located at Franklin, holds its regular meetings on the first Monday evening of each month. This lodge has been organized for about half a century and is one of the flourishing Masonic organizations of the county.

The youngest Masonic lodge in the county is Wollaston Lodge, which was instituted on June 2, 1900. It meets regularly on the first Tuesday evening of each month and is in a prosperous condition.

#### THE HIGHER DEGREES

There are in Norfolk County six Royal Arch Chapters, to wit: Mount Zion at Stoughton, organized in 1821; Keystone at Foxboro, instituted in 1861; Pentalpha at East Weymouth, established in 1870; Miller at Franklin, organized some time in the '70s; St. Stephen's at Quincy, and Hebron at Norwood. The latter was instituted on June 12, 1883.

There are also two commanderies of Knights Templar. South Shore Commandery, located at East Weymouth, was instituted on October 13, 1871, and Quincy Commandery was chartered on March 29, 1911.

#### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Connected with Masonry is a degree known as the "Eastern Star," to which the wives, sisters and daughters of Master Masons are eligible. The local organizations of this degree are called chapters, of which there are seven in Norfolk County, viz.: Eastern, No. 47, at Foxboro; Mayflower, No. 65, at Weymouth; Quinobequin, No. 67, at West Medway; Quincy, No. 88, at Quincy; Samoset, No. 109, at Norwood; Brookline, No. 112, at Brookline; and Canton, No. 132, at Canton.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows dates back to 1745 and finds its origin in a society organized in England in that year under the name of "The Antient and Most Noble Order of Bucks." Some writers have endeavored to establish the fact that the society was founded by some dissatisfied members of the Masonic fraternity, who hoped to make it a successful rival of that order, but the statement lacks foundation. The oldest records of the "Antient and Most Noble Order of Bucks" are those of Aristarchus Lodge, which met for some time in

the Globe Tavern in London. About 1773 the society began to decline, but a few lodges held on and finally succeeded in bringing about a reorganization. George IV, when Prince of Wales, was admitted to membership in the "Bucks" in 1780, and tradition says that in the ceremonies attendant upon his initiation the words "Odd Fellow" were used for the first time.

In 1803 a grand lodge was organized in England, but six years later a lodge at Manchester withdrew and declared itself "independent." As a sort of self-constituted grand lodge it revised the ritual and established a new order. In 1813 the "Manchester Unity, Independent Order of Odd Fellows," was founded. On December 26, 1806, Solomon and John C. Chambers, father and son, who had been initiated into the order in England, organized a lodge of Odd Fellows in New York City, but it was short-lived. Another effort to establish a lodge in New York was made in 1816, under the auspices of the Manchester Unity, but it also was unsuccessful.

In 1818 Thomas Wildey came over from England and located at Baltimore, Maryland. He had been made an Odd Fellow in England and soon after his arrival in this country he began a search for other Odd Fellows with a view to establishing a lodge, even going so far as to advertise in the newspapers. His efforts bore fruit and on April 26, 1819, a lodge was instituted in Baltimore, with Thomas Wildey, John Duncan, John Welch, Richard Rushworth and John Cheatham as the charter members. This lodge was the pioneer of Odd Fellowship in America. On September 23, 1842, the American lodges severed their connection with the Manchester Unity and organized a grand lodge for the United States and Canada. In those two countries there are now about two million Odd Fellows.

#### ODD FELLOWSHIP IN NORFOLK COUNTY

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is the strongest of all the fraternal societies in Norfolk County, having twenty-one lodges and four encampments. These lodges differ from the Masonic lodges, in that each one bears a number. As the lodges are numbered in the order of their establishment, one would naturally suppose that the lodge with the smallest number would be the oldest. This, however, is not true, as the Grand Lodge has adopted the custom of keeping all numbers intact, as nearly as possible. Should a lodge surrender its charter, the next one organized is given the number of the defunct lodge, so that the number is no indication of the age of the lodge. The order was introduced in Norfolk County in 1845. During that year five lodges were organized, located in Stoughton, Randolph, Quincy, East Weymouth and Foxboro. It is possible that some of the other lodges were also instituted in that year, as the writer has been unable to ascertain the date when some of them were established.

Stoughton Lodge, No. 72, was instituted on May 5, 1845, with nine charter members and Elisha Page as noble grand. It is still in existence and holds meetings every Wednesday evening.

Rising Star Lodge, No. 76, located at Randolph, was organized May 24, 1845, at a meeting held in the law office of John King. The lodge was regularly instituted on June 3, 1845, by officers of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. Hiram Alden was then installed as noble grand and R. W. Turner as secretary. This

lodge owns the building in which its hall is situated and is a flourishing organization.

On July 18, 1845, Mount Wollaston Lodge, No. 80, at Quincy, was instituted. This is one of the strongest lodges in the county, though some of its members have withdrawn at different times for the purpose of forming new lodges. Regular meetings are held Tuesday evening of each week.

Crescent Lodge, No. 82, was instituted at East Weymouth on August 22, 1845. During the next quarter of a century its growth was almost phenomenal, as in 1870 it reported nearly three hundred members. It is still one of the leading lodges of the county.

The exact date when Excelsior Lodge of Foxboro was instituted cannot be given. It bore the number 87 at the time it was organized, which would indicate that it was not far behind the lodge at East Weymouth. On October 19, 1887, the lodge was reorganized under its original number, and since then it has made a steady growth.

King David Lodge, No. 71, located at Franklin, is another old Odd Fellows' organization, but the exact date of its institution could not be ascertained.

Eliot Lodge, No. 58, was organized at Newton Upper Falls on January 30, 1845, but at that time was not a Norfolk County lodge. On May 22, 1845, it surrendered its charter and was not revived until February 25, 1870, when it was reëstablished and began holding meetings in the Parker Block at Needham. Here it was burned out on May 12, 1887, after which it met for a time in the Masonic Hall. It then moved to Highland Hall, Needham Heights, where it is still located.

Wilsey Lodge, No. 21, of South Weymouth, was instituted on March 9, 1875, with eighteen charter members. Ten years later it numbered about one hundred and fifty. About that time, or a little earlier, the lodge erected a building with two store rooms on the main floor and a public hall and lodge room above. The cost of this building was about fifteen thousand dollars.

Sincerity Lodge, No. 173, of Wellesley, was instituted on August 9, 1875, by former members of Eliot Lodge. It has a strong membership and meets regularly in a nicely furnished hall of its own.

Puritan Lodge, No. 179, located at South Braintree, was organized on April 11, 1877, by Odd Fellows belonging to Mount Wollaston Lodge of Quincy and the lodges at East Weymouth and Canton. Five years later it numbered nearly one hundred members. This lodge has a nice hall and, while it cannot boast as many members as some of the other lodges, is in a prosperous condition.

Tiot Lodge, No. 50, of Norwood, was organized on March 18, 1886, and has made a steady growth from the beginning. Another lodge organized in this year is Cohasset, No. 192, which holds its meetings in the hall over the Cohasset Savings Bank.

John Hancock Lodge, No. 224, located at Wollaston, was organized on October 12, 1893, several members of the lodge at Quincy withdrawing for the purpose of forming the new lodge. Regular meetings are held on Wednesday evening of each week.

The other Odd Fellows' lodges in the county are as follows: Blue Hill, No. 93, at Canton; Rising Sun, No. 99, at West Medway; Reliance, No. 137, at Walpole; Medway, No. 163, at Medway; Wampum, No. 195, at Wrentham;

Medfield, No. 216, at Medfield; Lomia, No. 221, at Brookline; and Samuel Dexter, No. 232, at Dedham. Facts regarding the early history of these lodges could not be obtained, but from the Grand Lodge reports it is learned that a majority of them are active and enjoying a state of prosperity. Several of them own buildings, the lodges at Medfield and Walpole being especially energetic in carrying out the principles of the order.

#### ENCAMPMENTS

Wompatuck Encampment, No. 18, was organized at an early date at Hingham. On February 2, 1851, it surrendered its charter and on October 27, 1875, was reorganized at East Weymouth, upon the petition of Stephen Cain and thirteen others. Regular meetings have been held ever since the reorganization.

Mount Hebron Encampment, No. 24, is located at Stoughton. It was organized about 1886 and holds regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Odd Fellows' Hall.

King's Mountain Encampment, No. 71, located at Walpole, and Manet Encampment, No. 75, at Quincy, are both strong in membership and active in the work of the order. The latter holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

#### DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH

This is a degree established for the benefit of the wives, daughters and other near female relatives of Odd Fellows. Members are generally referred to as "Rebekahs," and the lodges are called Rebekah Lodges. According to the last available report, there are thirteen Rebekah Lodges in Norfolk County. In the order of their numbers they are: Mount Olive, No. 52, at Canton; Golden Star, No. 65, at Randolph; Lady Franklin, No. 66, at Franklin; Abigail Adams, No. 90, at South Weymouth; Amana, No. 96, at South Braintree; Perseverance, No. 97, at Stoughton; Steadfast, No. 98, at East Weymouth; Rosalie, No. 116, at West Medway; Columbia, No. 121, at Foxboro; George L. Gill, No. 146, at Quincy; Arelia M. Stetson, No. 151, at Cohasset; Boggestowe, No. 168, at Millis, and Bethel, No. 179, at Brookline. These Rebekah Lodges work in conjunction with the men's lodges in giving social entertainments, relief work for the sick and distressed, etc.

There is one Odd Fellows' organization in Norfolk County that affiliates with the Manchester Unity, viz.: Granite Lodge, No. 7058, located at Quincy. It was organized some years ago by stone cutters who came from England, and now holds its meetings on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

On February 15, 1864, five young men in Washington, D. C., met and listened to the ritual of a proposed secret, fraternal organization. They were all clerks in Government offices, members of the Arion Glee Club, and intimate associates. Their names were Justus H. Rathbone, William H. and David L. Burnett, Dr. Sullivan Kimball and Robert A. Champion. The ritual, which had been

prepared by Mr. Rathbone, was based upon the friendship of Damon and Pythias. It was approved by those who listened to its reading, and the name "Knights of Pythias" was selected for the new order. Four days later Washington Lodge, No. 1, was formally instituted in Temperance Hall.

Franklin Lodge, No. 2, was instituted at the Washington Navy Yard on April 12, 1864, and during the next six months several other lodges were established near the national capital. Owing to the fact that the great Civil war was then in progress, the growth of the order was slow. Discouraged by the outlook, all the lodges were disbanded except the one at the navy yard. Upon the restoration of peace a new interest was awakened, and on May 1, 1866, members of Franklin Lodge and some of those that had disbanded organized a grand lodge, with power to issue charters to subordinate lodges. Within two years the order had spread to cover the District of Columbia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania. On May 15, 1868, the Supreme Lodge was organized by delegates from the lodges of those states.

Since the organization of the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias lodges have been organized in every state of the Union and the provinces of Canada. In 1915 the order stood fourth in the list of fraternal societies, numbering nearly one million members. In that year over a million and a half dollars were paid out for relief and charitable work. The Uniformed Rank was established in 1879. The manual of drill used by this rank is that of the United States army. In 1898, a number of officers in the volunteer army in the war with Spain were selected from the Uniformed Rank, Knights of Pythias. Another feature of the order is the "Dramatic Order of Knights of Khorassan," and there is also a ladies degree, called the "Pythian Sisters."

#### NORFOLK COUNTY KNIGHTS

Delphi Lodge, No. 15, is the oldest Knights of Pythias lodge in the county. It was instituted at Weymouth Landing on December 17, 1869, with thirteen charter members. On September 15, 1870, the building in which the lodge met was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of some of the records and lodge furniture and fixtures worth about six hundred dollars. A new hall was found and the meetings resumed. Since that time the lodge has had a steady growth and now occupies a fine hall, well furnished. A temple of the Pythian Sisters was organized in connection with this lodge a few years ago.

Roger Sherman Lodge, No. 142, located at Canton, was named for one of the Connecticut signers of the Declaration of Independence who was a resident of Canton in his boyhood, and attended the Canton schools. It occupies a good hall and has a growing membership.

Monatiquot Lodge, No. 83, is located in Braintree and is one of the old lodges of the county. Little could be learned regarding its history, as the early records have been destroyed.

Merrymount Lodge, No. 77, was organized at Quincy in May, 1913, and Merrymount Temple of the Pythian Sisters was organized in May, 1916. The lodge meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month in a well furnished hall and is on the road to prosperity.

Chemung Lodge, No. 150, is located at Stoughton. It holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of each month and has a strong membership.

Onward Lodge, No. 144, of Dedham, meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Odd Fellows' Hall, No. 620 High Street.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Grand Army of the Republic is an organization of soldiers, sailors and marines who fought to preserve the Union in the War of 1861-65. As early as the spring of 1864, Dr. B. F. Stephenson and Rev. W. J. Rutledge, surgeon and chaplain, respectively, of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, discussed the advisability of organizing some kind of an association of veterans to perpetuate the fraternal relations established during the war. These two men, with a few associates, joined in calling a meeting at Decatur, Illinois, for April 6, 1866, and it was at that meeting that the Grand Army was born. The aims of the order are to collect and preserve historic relics and documents pertaining to the war; to aid and assist sick and disabled Union veterans, their widows and orphans; to observe Memorial Day by suitable patriotic exercises and the decoration of the graves of fallen comrades; to keep alive the cherished incidents of the camp and campaign; and to teach lessons of patriotism to the rising generation.

In the plan of organization each state constitutes a "Department" and local societies are called "Posts." The first post was organized at Decatur, Illinois, at the meeting above mentioned, and the first national encampment was held at Indianapolis, Indiana, in November, 1866. The order reached its greatest strength in 1890, when it numbered over four hundred thousand members. Each year since then the number of those who "answer the last roll call" has increased until in 1915 the death rate was about one thousand per month. Many of the posts in the smaller towns have been discontinued. The Grand Army is largely responsible for the establishment of Memorial Day (May 30th) as a legal holiday, and it has been influential in securing the enactment of laws in the states providing for soldiers' homes and institutions for the care and education of soldiers' orphans.

#### NORFOLK COUNTY POSTS

The first post in Norfolk County was Lincoln Post, No. 40, which was organized at North Weymouth on January 2, 1868, and was named for the martyred President of the United States. Gen. B. F. Pratt, who had previously joined the order in Boston, was the first commander.

John F. Reynolds Post, No. 58, was organized at East Weymouth on July 14, 1868, with Gen. James L. Bates as the first commander. It was named for Gen. John F. Reynolds, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. General Bates was commander of the Department of Massachusetts in 1870, and Col. Benjamin S. Lovell of this post was senior vice commander of the Department in 1881. In August, 1873, Lincoln Post surrendered its charter and united with Reynolds Post.

Sylvanus Thayer Post, No. 87, was organized at Braintree on June 4, 1869,

with ten charter members, by Gen. James L. Bates. It was named for one of Braintree's veterans of the Civil war, who gave to the town the public library building and the Thayer Academy. This post is now one of the most active in the county.

Paul Revere Post, No. 88, located at Quincy; E. P. Carpenter Post, No. 91, of Foxboro; Revere Post, No. 94, at Canton; and Horace Niles Post, No. 110, at Randolph, were all organized in the year 1869. The posts at Quincy and Canton bear the name of a Revolutionary patriot, and the one at Randolph was named in honor of Capt. Horace Niles, who commanded the first company that went out from the town in 1861.

Moses Ellis Post, No. 117, located at Medfield, was established in 1870, with fifteen charter members. It was named for Moses Ellis, of Framingham, who assisted the post financially at the time of its organization.

Charles L. Chandler Post, No. 143, was organized at Brookline in 1871. Starting with sixteen charter members, its growth was rapid and five years later the membership was about one hundred and fifty. This post is still one of the leading Grand Army organizations of the county.

In 1880 the Grand Army of the Republic underwent a reorganization. Some of the posts that had been established previous to that time were also reorganized. Sargent Post, of Medway, was organized in 1882, the first to be founded in Norfolk County after the order was reorganized. It was named in honor of Dr. James H. Sargent, for many years a resident of the town.

Henry Bryant Post, No. 98, located at Cohasset, was instituted on January 15, 1883, and was named for a prominent citizen of the town, who was a brigade surgeon in the Civil war. Cyrus L. Bates was commander of this post in 1917.

George H. Bird Post, No. 169, was organized at Norwood under a charter dated July 21, 1884. A post was organized at Wellesley about this time, but it afterward surrendered its charter and a Soldiers' Club was established in its place.

Other Grand Army posts in the county are: No. 60, at Franklin; St. John Chambré, No. 72, at Stoughton; No. 102, at Milton; George H. Maintien, No. 133, at Wrentham; Charles W. Carroll, at Dedham; and E. B. Piper Post, at Walpole. In the observance of Memorial Day, it has become a custom in recent years for the towns to appropriate money to defray the expenses of the Grand Army posts. These appropriations in 1916 ranged from \$25.00 in Westwood to \$400 in Quincy and Weymouth. In some of the towns quarters have been provided in the town building for the use of the order.

#### WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

Connected with the Grand Army is a ladies' society known as the Women's Relief Corps, which was founded soon after the order was reorganized in 1880. Almost every post has its associated relief corps, the members of which assist in caring for the needy and in directing social entertainments, the proceeds of which go into the relief fund. The strongest and most active relief corps in Norfolk County are those of Quincy, Weymouth, Braintree, Foxboro, Stoughton, Brookline and Franklin.

## THE ELKS

Although there are but two lodges of Elks in Norfolk County, the order has in late years become one of the most prominent of the fraternal societies. It was first started as a social club in New York City in 1865, under the name of "Jolly Corks." The name is said to have been proposed by Charles Vivian, a young Englishman, who was one of the most active participants in the club festivities.

In the winter of 1867-68, some one proposed that the club be used as the nucleus of a fraternal order. Then the objection was raised that the name "Jolly Corks," while proper for a local club, was not sufficiently dignified for a fraternal society. A committee was therefore appointed to select a suitable name and prepare a ritual. In the course of its labors, the committee chanced to visit Barnum's Museum, where the members of it saw an elk and learned something of that animal's habits. The name "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks" was then proposed and adopted.

New York Lodge, No. 1, was organized on February 16, 1868, and for about three years was the only one in the country. On March 10, 1871, it was incorporated as a grand lodge, with power to establish subordinate lodges in cities having a population of five thousand or more. The second lodge was instituted in Philadelphia, soon after the incorporation of the grand lodge. On April 18, 1876, the third lodge was instituted at San Francisco. From that time the growth of the order has been rapid, until now there is scarcely a city in the United States with the requisite population that has not its Elks' Club. In 1915 there were nearly half a million members.

During the early history of the Elks the convivial feature was prominent, but in more recent years it has been subordinated to the cultivation of a fraternal spirit and to charitable work. The motto of the order is: "The faults of our brothers we write upon the sands; their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory." The initials "B. P. O. E." are sometimes said to stand for "Best People on Earth." The two lodges in Norfolk County are: Brookline, No. 886, and Quincy, No. 943. Both are prosperous and have good quarters for social intercourse and lodge work.

## MISCELLANEOUS SOCIETIES

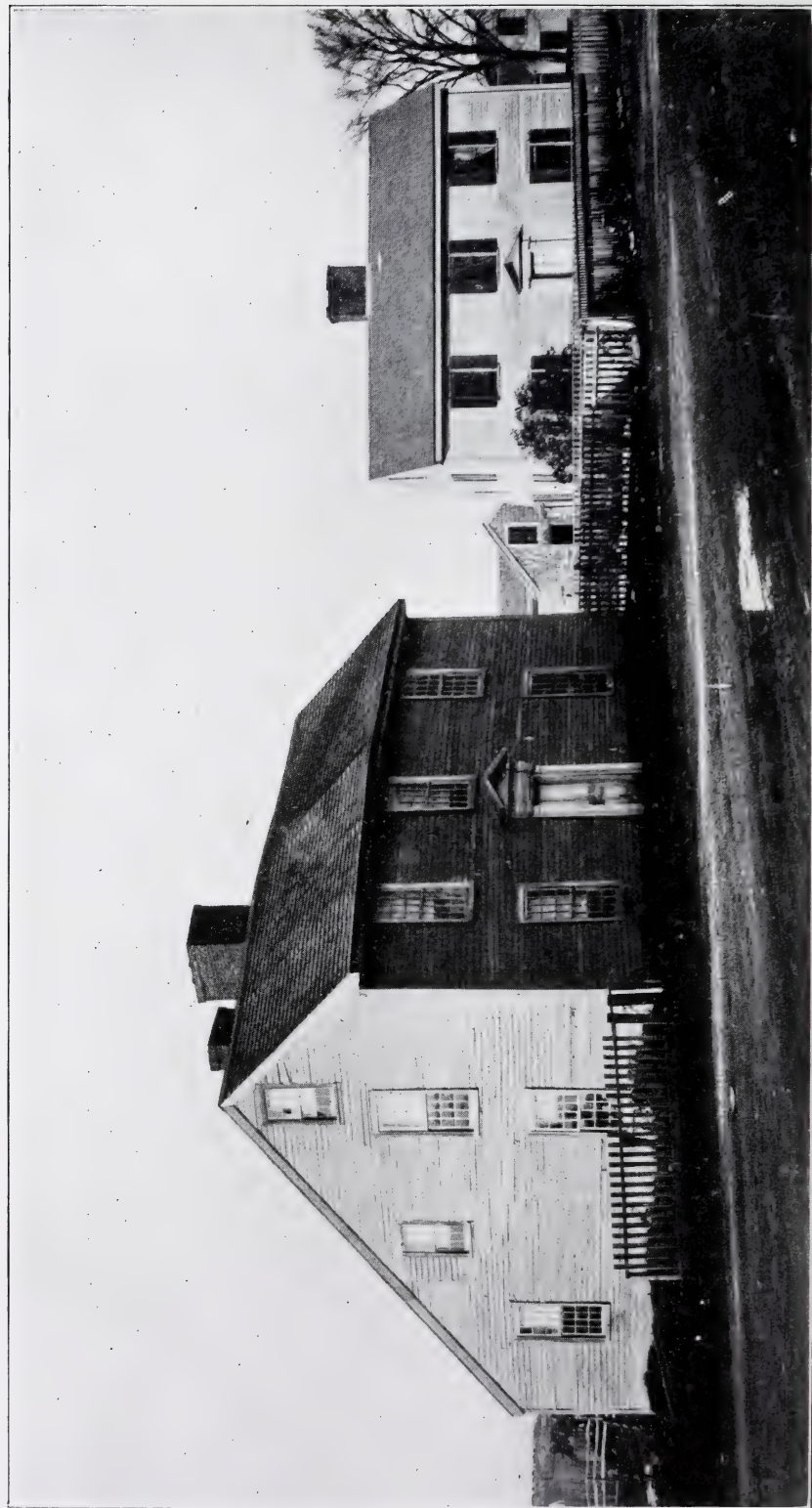
The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic society, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians are both strong in Norfolk County, especially in Cohasset, Dedham, Braintree, Quincy and Weymouth. In each of the last two towns there are four divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This order is also represented in Needham, Brookline, Stoughton and a few of the other towns of the county.

Of the minor fraternal societies, in which the insurance feature is prominent, the Improved Order of Red Men has lodges at Needham, Norwood, Cohasset, Quincy and Stoughton; the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Dedham, Foxboro, Needham, Braintree, Franklin and some of the other towns; a few lodges of the Knights of Honor are still in existence, though this order is not as prominent as it was a quarter of a century or so ago; the Loyal Order of Moose is represented in several of the towns, as are the Sons of Veterans, the

Daughters of the American Revolution, the Heptasophs, and the Patrons of Husbandry.

In each of the principal towns there are one or more social and literary clubs, some of which are composed exclusively of men and others exclusively of women. The work of these clubs consists of the study of some favorite author, or the discussion of some current topic, though in some of them the social feature is predominant. Among these clubs may be mentioned the Brookline, Dedham and Franklin Country clubs, each of which owns a modern club house; the Dedham Canoe and Boat Club; the Wollaston and Needham Golf clubs; the Norfolk, Weymouth, Wessagusset and Old Colony clubs, of Weymouth; the Chickatawabut, Fortnightly and Vernon clubs, of Stoughton; the Needham Unitarian Club; the Quincy Yacht Club; the Copeland, Robert Emmet, Rod and Gun and Women's clubs, of Quincy; the Monday Club, of Needham, and the Veteran Firemen's associations of Cohasset and Stoughton.





BIRTHPLACES OF JOHN ADAMS AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, QUINCY

## CHAPTER LI

### ILLUSTRIOUS SONS

JOHN ADAMS—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—JOHN HANCOCK—PAUL REVERE—FISHER AMES—HORACE MANN—WILLIAM T. ADAMS—ELEAZAR SMITH—WILLIAM M. THAYER—ALBERT D. RICHARDSON—HANNAH ADAMS—MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN—A LITERARY GROUP.

Shakespeare tells us that "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." In every community there are certain individuals who, through accident of birth, through their own efforts, or through some fortunate combination of circumstances, rise above their fellow-men in the professions, in literary pursuits, as great inventors or in the political arena. Norfolk County has a number of these "Illustrious Sons," who have helped to shape the nation's destiny and add lustre to its history. Norfolk is the only county in the United States that can claim the distinction of being the birthplace of two presidents of the United States—John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams.

#### JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born in that part of Braintree now Quincy on October 19, 1735, the eldest son of John and Susanna (Boylston) Adams. After suitable preparation he entered Harvard and graduated as a member of the class of 1755. His first intention was to study for the ministry, but not being in full sympathy with the orthodox views regarding election and reprobation, he decided upon the law as his profession. While preparing himself for the bar, he taught school at Worcester, and in 1758 was admitted to practice. In 1761 he heard James Otis deliver his famous address on "Writs of Assistance," of which he afterward said: "American independence was then and there born." Such an influence did this address have on Mr. Adams that when the tory government offered him the position of advocate-general in 1763, he declined the honor. In 1764 he married Abigail Smith, a granddaughter of Col. John Quincy, and about this time published his "Essay on Canon and Feudal Law."

The passage of the Stamp Act in March, 1765, brought Mr. Adams prominently into politics for the first time. He drew up the petition in the Town of Braintree and procured the signatures of a number of the leading citizens, instructing their representatives in relation to the stamps. On December 18, 1765, the Town of Boston employed him to appear with Gridley and Otis before the governor and council in support of his memorial. This introduced him to the people of Boston and in 1768 he opened a law office in that city. In the

trial of the British soldiers for the Boston Massacre in 1770, he was employed as counsel for the defense, which rendered him unpopular with certain people, but these soon learned that his patriotic sentiments had not been affected by such employment, and the same year he was elected as a member of the General Court. On June 17, 1774, he was chairman of the Faneuil Hall meeting called to protest against the Boston Port Bill, and he was one of the five delegates sent from Massachusetts to the Continental Congress which met at Philadelphia the following September.

During the winter of 1774-75, under the pseudonym of "Novanglus," he published a series of essays on the rights of the colonists that attracted wide attention. He was the first to propose the name of George Washington as commander-in-chief of the American armies, and on June 7, 1776, he seconded Richard Henry Lee's motion in the Continental Congress "that these colonies are and of right ought to be independent states." Four days later he was appointed as one of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson afterward declared Mr. Adams to be "the ablest advocate and champion of independence on the floor of the house."

Mr. Adams was made chairman of the board of war in June, 1776; was commissioner to France in 1777; was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention in 1779; was appointed minister to England in 1788; was elected Vice President on the ticket with Washington and was inaugurated in 1789; was the federalist candidate for President in 1796 and was elected, but was defeated by Jefferson in 1800. He then retired from public life and died at Quincy on July 4, 1826, just fifty years after he signed the Declaration of Independence.

#### JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

On July 11, 1767, a son was born to John and Abigail Adams in the Town of Braintree. He was named John Quincy, after his father and maternal grandfather. When he was about ten years of age he accompanied his father to France and attended school in Paris. In 1787 he graduated at Harvard, after which he studied law with Theophilus Parsons, of Newburyport, and in 1790 was admitted to the bar. The next year he published the "Boston Centinel," and under the name of "Publicola" wrote a number of articles to show the fallacies of French political reformers. Later he wrote several essays in support of the neutrality of the United States in the war between England and France. In 1794 President Washington appointed him minister to Holland, and in July, 1797, he married Louisa C., daughter of Joshua Johnson, then the American consul at London. In February before his marriage, Washington wrote to John Adams: "I give it as my undivided opinion that your son is the most valuable public character we have abroad."

In 1797 he was appointed minister to Berlin, from which post he was recalled in 1801. In March, 1803, he was elected to the United States senate as a federalist. While in the senate he supported the Embargo Act, which caused him to lose standing with the federalist party and he became a democrat. He resigned his seat in the senate in March, 1808, because he was not in harmony with the administration, and in March, 1809, President Madison appointed him minister to Russia. While in that country he was offered the appointment of



DOROTHY QUINCY HOUSE, QUINCY



OLD ADAMS MANSION, QUINCY

Occupied by two presidents of the United States and other distinguished members of the Adams family.



associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, but declined. In 1813 he was one of the commissioners to negotiate a treaty with Great Britain; was appointed minister to England in 1815; was selected for secretary of state by President James Monroe in 1817 and became a member of the cabinet; was elected President in 1824, and was a candidate for reelection in 1828, but was defeated by Andrew Jackson.

Mr. Adams reappeared in public life in 1830 as a member of Congress and represented his district in the lower house of the National Legislature for seventeen years. On February 21, 1848, he was stricken with paralysis, while in his seat in Congress, and died on the 23d. During the latter part of his life he was known as "Old Man Eloquent."

#### JOHN HANCOCK

Almost every American school boy is familiar with the firm, bold signature of John Hancock in the fac simile copies of the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock was a native of Norfolk County. He was born on January 12, 1737, a son of John and Mary Hancock. His father was at that time pastor of the First Church in Braintree (now Quincy) and lived in a house where the Adams Academy was afterward built. In 1754 John graduated at Harvard and in 1769 at Yale. It is said that he was "just an ordinary scholar." In 1776, three years before he received his degree from Yale College, he was elected to the Provincial Legislature. There he met James Otis, Samuel Adams and others of that class, and when the time came for a struggle with the mother country Mr. Hancock was well prepared to take an active part. He was chosen a delegate to the First Provincial Congress, which met at Concord, and was next elected to the Continental Congress, of which he was the second president. When the British crown offered general amnesty to the "American rebels," Mr. Hancock and Samuel Adams were not included in the offer, for the reason that their work in behalf of independence had been more than usually effective.

Mr. Hancock was the first governor of Massachusetts under the constitution of 1780, and held the office for five years. In 1787 he was again elected governor and remained in the office until his death at Quincy on October 8, 1793.

#### PAUL REVERE

Although not a native of the county, Paul Revere was for a number of years a resident and actively identified with Norfolk affairs. He was born in Boston on June 1, 1735, of French ancestry, the first of his family coming to America as the result of the Edict of Nantes. He took part in the French and Indian war and in 1774 was a member of the Suffolk Congress, which first met at the Doty Tavern, in what is now the Town of Canton. He carried a copy of the "Suffolk Resolves" on horseback to Philadelphia and presented it to the Continental Congress. His midnight ride on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn the people of the movements of the British soldiery has been immortalized in Longfellow's poem.

Paul Revere's father was a goldsmith and brought his son up to that trade. He also became a skillful engraver on copper. It is said that the first powder

mill in the colonies was established by him. In 1801 he located in Canton and laid the foundation of the Revere Copper Company, under the firm name of "Paul Revere & Son." Here he cast bells and cannon. His death occurred on May 10, 1818.

#### FISHER AMES

Fisher Ames, lawyer, statesman and patriot, was a son of Dr. Nathaniel Ames and was born in Dedham on April 9, 1758, in a house which stood on the lot now occupied by the registry building. In 1770, soon after he had passed his twelfth birthday anniversary, he entered Harvard College, where he graduated in 1774. One of his biographers says: "He was too young during his college course to master the sciences then taught, but he was remarkably attentive to his studies and his mind was quick and accurate. He excelled in the classics and literary exercises. His declamations were remarkable for their energy and propriety, and he sometimes spoke an original theme and wrote some verses. He had a poetic imagination, which he showed in his prose writings afterward, but he never confessed to being a poet."

After his graduation, on account of his youth and the outbreak of the Revolution, he did not begin his professional studies for several years, occupying his time in teaching school, though he participated in some military expeditions to places in Massachusetts and on the Rhode Island frontier. He studied law with William Tudor of Boston, and in 1781 was admitted to the bar. At the time of Shay's Rebellion, Mr. Ames wrote a number of essays upon the questions that then agitated the people of the state. These essays were published in the Independent Chronicle and brought him in touch with prominent public men, which marked the beginning of his public career. In 1788 he was a delegate to the convention for ratifying the Federal Constitution, and the same year was elected to the Legislature. His speeches in the convention and the Legislature, as well as his essays, led to his election to Congress from the Suffolk district, which office he held during the entire eight years of Washington's administration.

In 1791 he began the practice of law in Boston and the next year married Frances, daughter of John Worthington, of Springfield. When Norfolk County was established in 1793, he returned to his native town and opened a law office in Dedham, on the corner of the meeting house common, not far from the "Pillar of Liberty." His health began to fail in 1795, and although he continued in practice to some extent, the trial of ordinary cases became more and more irksome to him and he gradually withdrew, devoting his time to his farm and to politics. His fame as a lawyer is overshadowed by his eminence as a statesman and political writer. He was a federalist of the Jay and Hamilton type, and as a member of Congress during the formative period of the Government assisted in the enactment of laws the effects of which are still felt by the people of the United States. He died at Dedham on July 4, 1808.

#### HORACE MANN

Stretching away from the village of Franklin toward Wrentham is a tract of country known as "Mann's Plain." Here on May 4, 1796, was born Horace

Mann, son of Thomas and Mary (Stanley) Mann, from whom the plain takes its name. In September, 1816, Horace entered the sophomore class of Brown University and graduated there in 1819. He then entered the law office of Josiah J. Fiske at Wrentham as a student. Before he had fully prepared himself for admission to the bar, Brown University offered him the position of tutor of Greek and Latin, which he accepted and remained with that institution for about two years. He then attended the law school at Litchfield, Connecticut, and completed his legal studies with James Richardson at Dedham. In December, 1823, he was admitted to the bar, and in 1826 as an attorney before the Court of Common Pleas. In 1827 he was admitted before the Supreme Judicial Court. In the latter year he was elected to represent Dedham in the General Court and continued to serve the town in that capacity until 1832. He also served as moderator of several town meetings and as a member of the school committee.

On May 27, 1837, in accordance with a law passed by the General Court, Governor Everett appointed the eight members of the Board of Education, one of whom was Horace Mann, then president of the State Senate. On June 29th he was made secretary of the board, an office he held for eleven years. The death of John Quincy Adams on February 23, 1848, left a vacancy in Congress, to which Mr. Mann was elected on the 3d of April following. He served three terms in Congress and on September 15, 1852, was elected president of Antioch College, which had just been established at Yellow Springs, Ohio. He remained at the head of this institution until his death on August 2, 1859.

Mr. Mann was twice married. On September 29, 1830, he married Miss Charlotte Messer, daughter of the president of Brown University. She died in August, 1832, and on May 1, 1843, he married Mary T. Peabody of Boston.

#### WILLIAM T. ADAMS

William Taylor Adams, better known to the American people as "Oliver Optic," was born in the Town of Medway on July 30, 1822. After acquiring a good education he taught for many years in the Boston public schools. Under the pseudonym of "Oliver Optic" he was a voluminous writer of juvenile fiction, his works numbering over one hundred volumes in all. These stories were published in series, among them being the "Army and Navy," "Boat Club," "Great Western," "Sailor Boy," "Starry Flag," "Lake Shore" and "Yacht Club" stories. His books are healthy in tone, dealing with athletic and out-door sports, calculated to stimulate a liking for wholesome amusement, and all teach in greater or less degree the lessons of loyalty and patriotism. During the latter years of his life, Mr. Adams was a magazine editor. His death occurred on March 27, 1897.

#### ELEAZAR SMITH

While not an "Illustrious Son" in the sense of being a great statesman, author or military commander, Eleazar Smith left his impress upon his native county through his inventions, some of which are still in use in manufacturing processes. He was born in Medfield in 1755, a grandson of that Samuel Smith who was left for dead by the Indians, while an infant, at the burning of the town in 1676. Although his opportunity to acquire an education was limited, he was a

great reader and had an excellent memory. He became well versed in astronomy and botany, and especially well informed in chemistry and mechanics. As a boy he gave proof of his inventive ability by constructing many ingenious contrivances. At the age of fifteen years he made a watch "that would go and keep time," his only tools being a pocket knife, a three-cornered file and a pair of compasses. This watch he presented to Doctor Wight of Medway, who assisted him to procure better tools for repairing and making clocks.

Mr. Smith's father was not in sympathy with his bent of mind and frequently charged him with "fooling away his time when he ought to be at work." While a soldier in the Continental army in the Revolution, he repaired a watch for one of the soldiers with his penknife. This came near getting him into trouble. Counterfeit coins were in circulation about the camp at Saratoga, and the ingenuity he displayed in repairing the watch led some to assert that he was the author of the counterfeit money. His greatest invention in early life was a machine for making pins. He also constructed some useful machines for making straw braids and bonnets, an industry that was then just gaining a foothold in Norfolk County. Machines for making combs, tacks, nails, etc., were turned out from his workshop, but the greatest of all his inventions was the machine for setting card teeth, which revolutionized the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. But, like other inventive geniuses, he was not of that turn of mind to realize wealth from his inventions, which were appropriated by designing persons, so that he died in 1836 comparatively poor.

#### WILLIAM M. THAYER

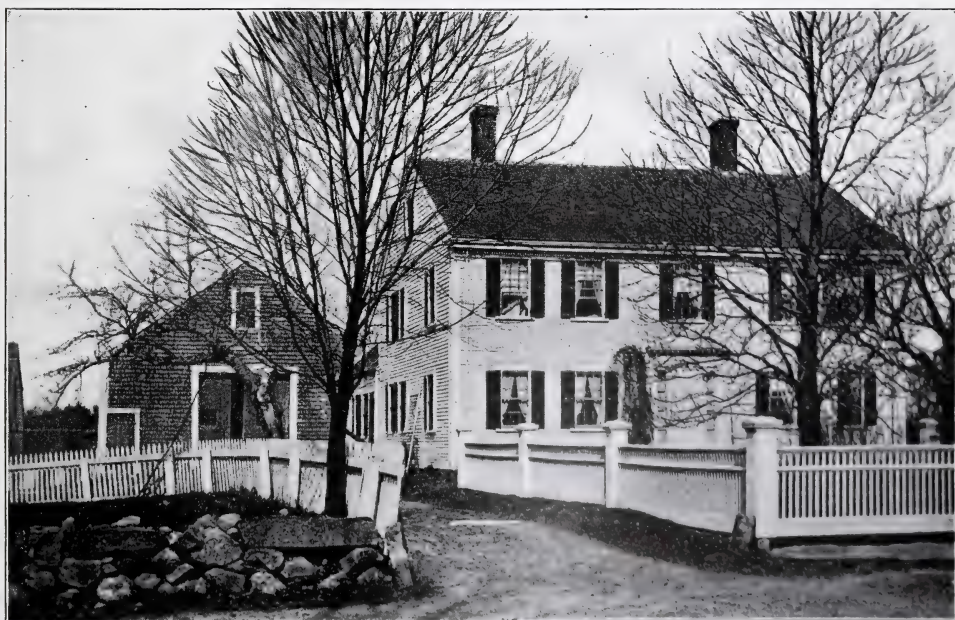
Another son of Norfolk County whose "fame has gone abroad over the land" was Rev. William Makepeace Thayer, of Franklin. He was educated for the ministry and was for years a forceful and successful preacher, but his greatest claim to fame is in his works as an author. It has been said of him that "he was a prolific writer, a master of terse, vigorous English, with a peculiar power of arresting attention and clinching his points." His best known works are the "Bobbin Boy," "Poor Boy and Merchant Prince," "From Log Cabin to White House" and "From Tannery to White House," which in turn tell the story of Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, A. T. Stewart, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. His "Marvels of Our New West," "Success and Its Achievers," "Tact, Push and Principle," have found their way into many libraries and homes, and some of his works have been translated into foreign languages. Mr. Thayer died in Franklin near the close of the Nineteenth Century.

#### ALBERT D. RICHARDSON

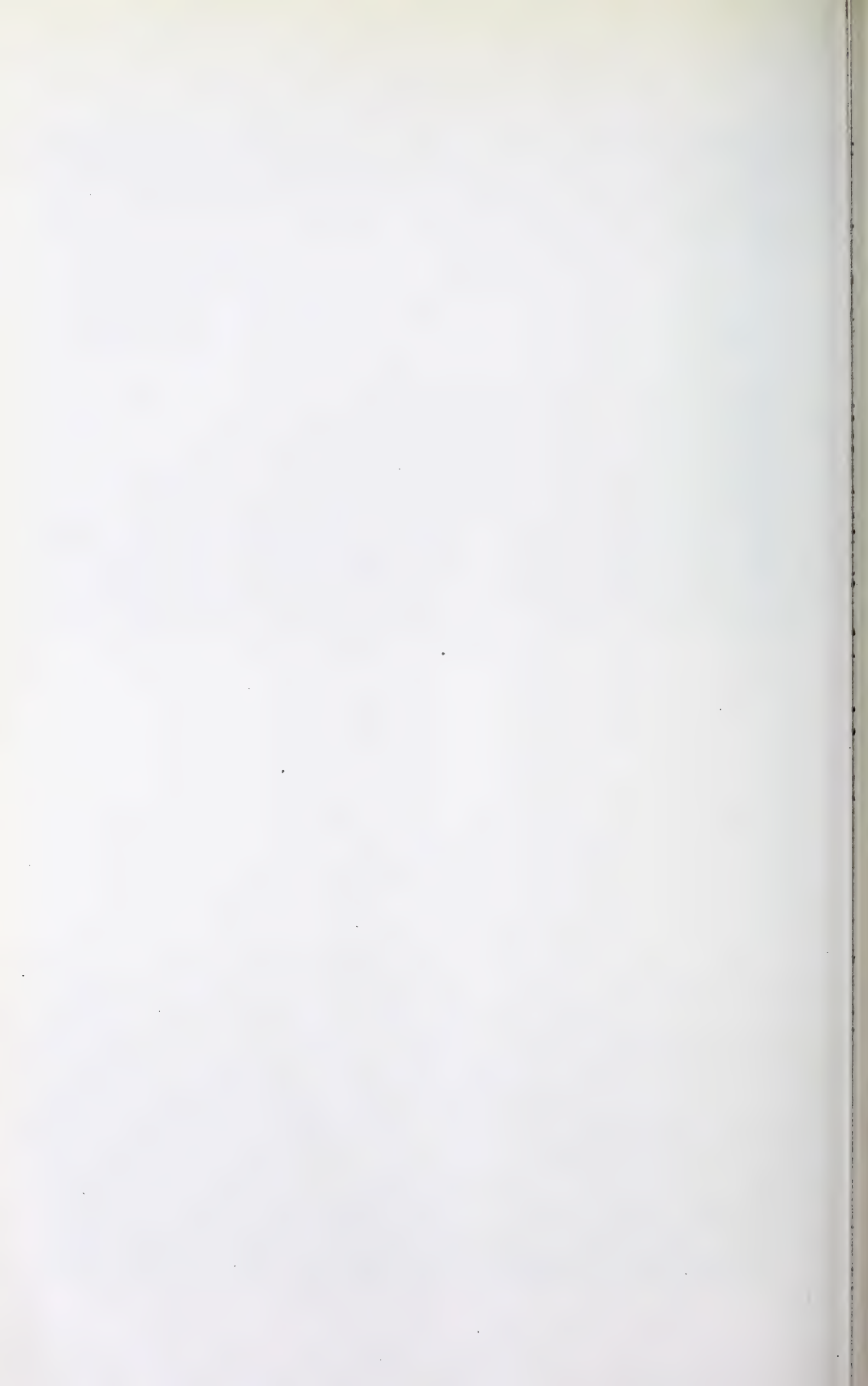
At the time of the War of 1861-65, Albert D. Richardson, a native of Franklin, was the celebrated war correspondent of the New York Tribune. He was captured and confined for about twenty months in Confederate prisons before he was able to effect his escape. Among his works are "The Secret Service," "The Field, the Dungeon and the Escape," "Four Years in Secessia," "Beyond the Mississippi" and "Our New States and Territories." Mr. Richardson edited Horace Greeley's "American Conflict," a "Personal History of Gen. U. S.



STETSON HALL AND SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, RANDOLPH



HOME OF MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN, RANDOLPH



Grant," and some other works of note. Some years after the close of the war he was shot in the Tribune office by a man named McFarlane and his remains were brought to Franklin for interment. His brother, the late Rev. Charles A. Richardson, also a native of Franklin, was for years the editor of the Congregationalist.

## HANNAH ADAMS

A story is told of a minister who, in making use of the term "mankind," explained that "Mankind is intended to embrace womankind." Applying that theory to Norfolk County, it may be well to include a few of the "Illustrious Daughters" along with the "Illustrious Sons." First of these is Hannah Adams, the historian, who was born in Medfield on October 2, 1755. She was in the fifth generation from Lieut. Henry Adams, one of the pioneers of the town, who was killed in the doorway of his house on the morning of February 21, 1636, when the Indians burned and sacked Medfield. Hannah's grandfather, Thomas Adams, inherited a part of the tract of land granted to his ancestor, and about 1715 built the house in which she was born.

Hannah Adams was the first American woman whose literary ability was generally recognized. With a delicate constitution from her earliest childhood, she did not mingle with other children in the usual sports, and as a result grew excessively timid and averse to appearing in company. Deemed physically unable to attend school, she received her first teaching from her mother. After her mother's death in 1767, she read a great variety of books in her father's library. She was passionately fond of poetry, and when she grew older she earned a little income from teaching some young men, who were preparing for the ministry, the elements of Greek and Latin. One of the young men had a book of extracts from "Broughton's Dictionary of Religions," and the perusal of this book shaped the after career of Hannah Adams. Dissatisfied with the lack of candor displayed on the part of some of the authors, she determined to make a compilation of her own, but with no thought of ever having it published. When it was completed a difficulty arose in finding some one to print it, unless 400 subscriptions were obtained in advance. With great labor and the assistance of her father and friends, the required number was finally secured, and in 1784 her "View of Religious Opinions" was published by B. Edes & Sons of Boston. Her "History of New England" was published in 1799; "Evidences of Christianity," in 1801, and her "History of the Jews," in 1812. She was also the author of other works, chiefly on religious topics. The latter years of her life were spent in Brookline, where she died on December 15, 1832.

## MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN

Mary Eleanor Wilkins was born in the Town of Randolph in 1862. She was educated in the public schools of her native town and at Mount Holyoke Seminary, after which she was for several years secretary to Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes. She first came into literary notice about 1886 through her short stories in magazines, by the faithful delineations of certain phases of New England life. In 1902 she was married to Dr. Charles M. Freeman, and after her marriage

resided in New Jersey. Altogether, Mrs. Freeman wrote about thirty volumes of fiction, most of her works portraying New England life and character. Her best known novels are: "A Humble Romance," "A New England Nun," "Young Lucretia," "Doc Gordon," "Shoulders of Atlas," "The Green Door" and "People of Our Neighborhood." She has also written a large number of short stories which have been published in the leading magazines.

#### A LITERARY GROUP

James R. Gilmore, a native of Franklin, wrote "Among the Pines" and other stories of Southern life and character about the time of the Civil war, under the pseudonym of "Edmund Kirke." Mr. Gilmore was also the author of "The Rear-Guard of the Revolution," "John Sevier as a Commonwealth Builder," and some other historical works.

Margaret W. Deland, a resident of Dedham, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1857. She is the author of "The Old Garden and Other Poems," "John Ward, Preacher," "Philip and His Wife," "The Story of a Child," and some other stories that have been widely read.

Frederic J. Stimson, a native of Dedham, was assistant attorney-general of Massachusetts in 1884-85. He is a member of numerous clubs and societies; the author of legal works and several volumes of fiction; and since 1914 has held the position of United States minister to the Argentine Republic.

Louis A. Holman of Needham was born on Prince Edward's Island in 1866. He is the author of "Ten Scenes from the Life of Benjamin Franklin"; has served as art editor of the New England Magazine and the Youth's Companion; has illustrated numerous stories in Scribner's and other magazines; and is recognized as an authority on Rembrandt and Keats.

Ellen Douglas Deland, author of "Oakleigh," "Katrina," "Three Girls of Hazelmere" and others novels, is a native of New York, but is now a resident of Dedham.

Agnes E. Rothery, one of the younger school of writers, was born in Brookline in 1888; graduated at Wellesley College in 1909; made her first appearance in literature as the author of essays that attracted considerable attention; is the author of "Our Common Road," "The House of Friendship," "The Romantic Shore" and some other works of fiction.

Lewis C. Strang, of East Weymouth, is the author of several works relating to the theater, plays and players, etc.

## CHAPTER LII

### MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY

LOST TOWNS—DORCHESTER—ROXBURY—WEST ROXBURY—HYDE PARK—QUAKER PERSECUTIONS—A FEW LANDMARKS—THE FAIRBANKS HOUSE—THE PEAKE HOUSE—ADAMS HOUSES—THE AVERY OAK—INDIAN ROCK—DEDHAM POWDER HOUSE—OTHER LANDMARKS—DISTINGUISHED VISITORS—LAFAYETTE—JACKSON—LINCOLN—BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

When the County of Norfolk was established in 1793 it embraced in addition to its present territory, the towns of Dorchester, Roxbury, West Roxbury and Hyde Park. One by one these towns have been annexed to the City of Boston and are treated in this chapter as the "Lost Towns" of Norfolk.

#### DORCHESTER

The Town of Dorchester was incorporated on September 7, 1630. On that date it was ordered by the General Court that "Trimountain shalbe called Boston, Mattapan Dorchester & the Towne upon Charles Ryver Waterton." From this it appears that the district included in Dorchester was before that time known as Mattapan. Nothing was said in the order about the boundaries of the towns named. In 1636 a grant of land was made to Dorchester, which "extended in a southwesterly direction to a line drawn from the summit of the Great Blue Hill to the old corner of Dedham and Roxbury." On the southeast the bounds of Dorchester were fixed the same year "by a line running from the sea from the mouth of Sachem's Brook, southerly of Squantum, to the summit of the Great Blue Hill." Out of this territory, south of the Neponset River, the Town of Milton was incorporated in 1662.

In 1637 another large tract of land, called the "New Grant," was allotted to Dorchester. The western boundary of this grant was a straight line, running from a point near the Hyde Park railroad station to the "Angle Tree" on the southern boundary of the county a short distance east of the Rhode Island line. This line took in the eastern part of the present towns of Dedham, Norwood, Walpole and Wrentham, and the New Grant included also the present towns of Canton, Sharon, Foxboro, Stoughton and Avon. In 1738, after several previous acts had been passed relating to the subject, the Dedham bounds were extended to the Neponset River. In the meantime Stoughton had been set off from Dorchester by the act of December 22, 1726, extending northward to the line of the old grant of 1636. Dorchester was annexed to Boston at different periods, the last of the town being taken from Norfolk County on January 3, 1870.

## ROXBURY

Concerning the early settlers of Roxbury, Francis S. Drake says: "They were people of substance, many of them farmers, none being 'of the poorer sort.' They struck root in the soil immediately and were enterprising, industrious and frugal."

The principal founder of the town was William Pynchon, who was one of the assistant magistrates that came over with Winthrop. The town was incorporated on September 28, 1630, only three weeks after the incorporation of Dorchester. Originally the name was spelled "Rocksbury," and Barber, in his Historical Collections, says: "A great part of this town is rocky land; hence the name of Rocks'bury." Joseph Warren, who fell at the battle of Bunker Hill, was born in Roxbury in 1740. Four days before his death he received a commission as major-general in the Continental army. William Heath, another major-general, was also a native of Roxbury. After the organization of Norfolk County he was appointed probate judge, which office he held until his death in 1814. By an act of the Legislature, approved on January 5, 1868, Roxbury was annexed to and became a part of the City of Boston.

## WEST ROXBURY

The territory comprising West Roxbury was originally known as "Jamaica End and Spring Street." In 1712 it became the Second Parish of Roxbury. During the next century several efforts were made to have the parish set off as a separate town, but all resulted in failure. In 1769 Jamaica Plain was organized as the Third Parish. In June, 1777, the Second and Third parishes joined in a petition to the General Court asking to be set off as a district to be called "Washington," but the Court took no action upon the petition. Finally, through the exertions of Arthur W. Austin and other influential citizens, who employed Rufus Choate to present their claims to the General Court, an act was passed on May 24, 1851, incorporating the Town of West Roxbury. The event was celebrated on the evening of June 3, 1851, by the firing of cannon, a display of fireworks, etc.

West Roxbury was the second town to be incorporated in Norfolk County after the latter was organized in 1793, Canton having been established in 1797, four years after the erection of the county. The town remained a part of Norfolk County until January 5, 1874, when the Legislature passed an act annexing it to the City of Boston.

## HYDE PARK

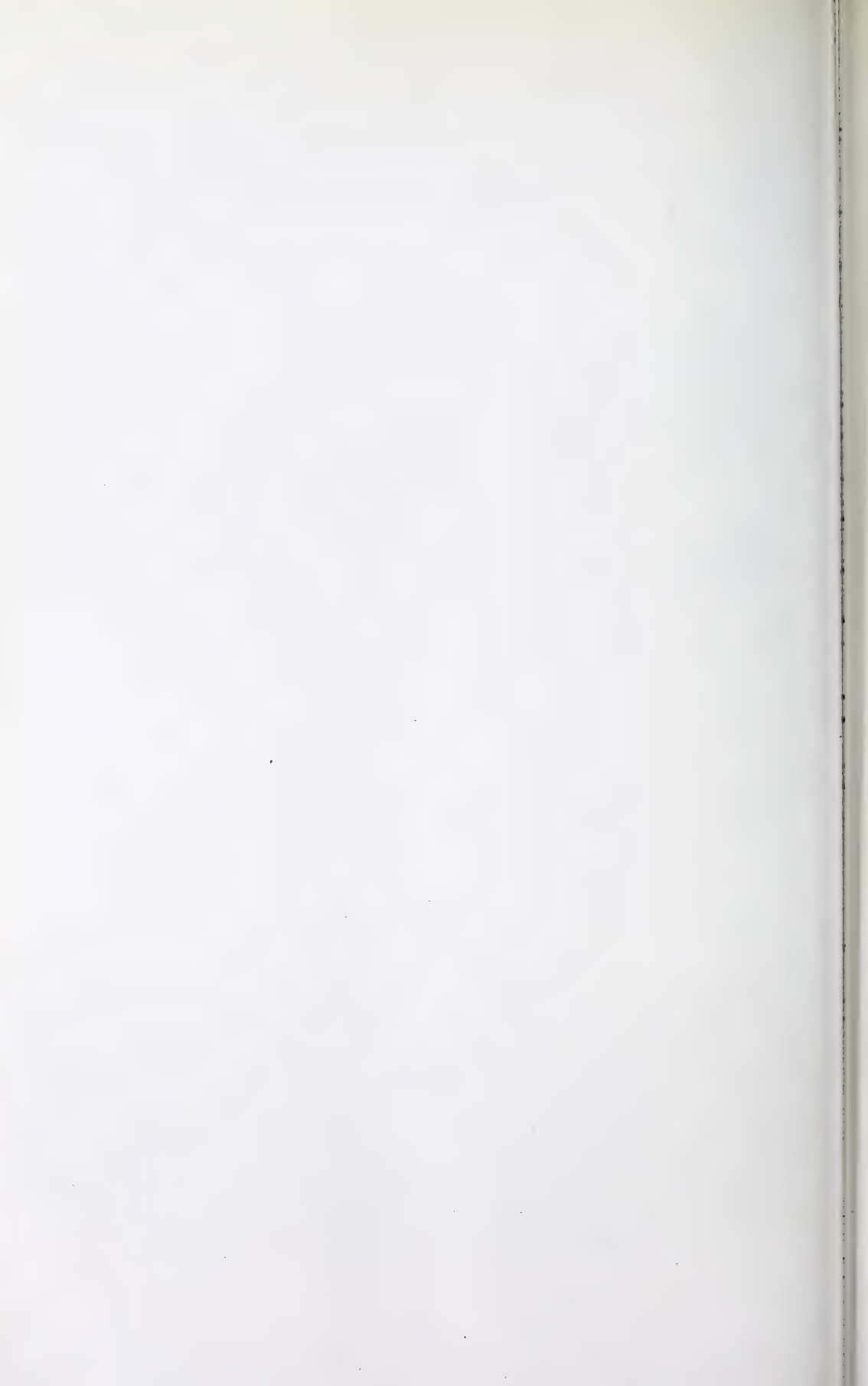
The incorporation of Hyde Park as a separate town is due in a great measure to the Hyde Park Land Company, which was organized about 1850. During the next ten years a number of lots were sold in that part of the town known as Fairmount. After the war the new settlement experienced a "boom," no fewer than 106 dwelling houses being erected in the year 1867. On October 14, 1867, a meeting was held at Music Hall, at which the preliminary steps were taken to secure the incorporation of a new town. A committee was appointed to consider the matter and report to an adjourned meeting on the 23d. At the adjourned



CANOE AND BOAT CLUBS, DEDHAM



OLD FAIRBANKS HOUSE, DEDHAM



meeting this committee reported in favor of presenting a petition to the General Court asking for the establishment of a separate town, with the bounds practically as they were afterward fixed.

As part of the proposed town was to be taken from Dedham, that town opposed the project. Dorchester made no opposition, but Milton objected to the taking of Brush Hill for the new town. The outcome of all this heated controversy was that the act of incorporation was approved on April 22, 1868, taking 1,300 acres from Dorchester, 800 acres from Dedham, and 700 acres from Milton, leaving the residents along the old Brush Hill road still within the boundaries of Milton. The first town meeting was held on April 30, 1868, when Henry Grew, Zenas Allen, M. L. Whitcher, W. J. Stuart and B. F. Radford were chosen selectmen; C. W. Turner, clerk; Henry S. Adams, treasurer; Henry A. Rich, tax collector. Hyde Park remained a part of Norfolk County until annexed to Boston under the act of June 22, 1911, which was to become effective when accepted by the town and city. Both accepted the provisions of the act on November 7, 1911, at the general election.

#### QUAKER PERSECUTIONS

While the first settlers of Massachusetts left their native land because of religious differences and persecutions and sought a place where they could worship God as they pleased, they were of that stern mold that was not willing to accord the same privilege to others. It may not be generally known that instances of Quaker persecution occurred in what is now Norfolk County, yet such was the case. A book entitled "New England Judged, by the Spirit of the Lord," was published by George Bishop in London in 1661, giving an account of the sufferings of the Quakers in their attempts to worship according to their views in Massachusetts. The book is divided into two parts, the first part "Containing a Brief Relation of the Sufferings of the People call'd Quakers in New-England from the Time of their first Arriv'l there in the Year 1656 to the Year 1660." The second part is a "Farther Relation of the Cruel and Bloody Sufferings of the People call'd Quakers in New-England Continued from anno 1660 to anno 1665." The following extracts are taken from an edition of this book published in London in 1703.

In March, 1658, three of the inhabitants of Salem—John Small, John Burton and Josiah Southick, Quakers, started for Rhode Island to look for a new location. The book then describes how they came to "a place called Dedham in the way Thither about thirty Miles from Salem, the first Night. As they were going into the Ordinary to Lodge one of the Chief Men of that place Capt. Lusher by Name, was sent for who examined them about Religion with your ministers on purpose to ensnare them: which they perceiving and refusing to answer unto his Questions tho' they gave him an Account of their Journey: he told them that he would send them where they would Answer: and so the next Morning the Constable came with Aid and with a Halbert and Brazen Headed staff, conveyed them like Murtherers through the Street to Boston, where your Deputy Governour reviled them telling them that they should go to Prison: And to Prison they had gone had they not demanded to go before the Governour, who hearing the case

set them free saying that they could not Hinder Men from Travelling on their Journies."

Although set free, a fine of twelve shillings was levied upon them "to pay the Constable and his Men." It appears that Josiah Southick had the temerity to venture again into Boston, which resulted in the following order:

"To the Constables of Boston—You are by Vertue of an Order of the Court of Assistants held at Boston the third Instant, required to repair with the Executioner unto the Prison, and there Forthwith take the Person of Josiah Southick, a Banish'd Quaker: And the Executioner is to take him and to strip him from the Girdle upward and to tye him to a Cart-tail and whip him ten Stripes out of Boston, and deliver him to the Constable of Roxbury who is also to Cause him to be tyed to the Cart's-tail, stripp'd as afore said, and to whip him through Roxbury with ten Stripes, and then deliver him to the Constable of Dedham, who is also required to whip him at the Cart's-tail with ten Stripes as afore said, and so discharge him out of Our Jurisdiction. Make your several Returns on the back side of the Warrant to the Secretary forthwith. Dated at Boston the 9th of September, 1661.

"By the Court.

"EDWARD RAWSON, Secretary."

The order was executed and the victim was left "fifteen Miles from any Towne and twenty-six Miles from Boston and the Wilderness." The book further says: "The Whip us'd for those cruel Executions is not of Whip-cord as in England, but of dried Guts, such as the Base of Viols and with three knots at the end, which many times the Hang-man layes on with both his Hands and must needs be of the most violent Torture and exercise to the Body."

Elizabeth Hooton, an old woman, received ten lashes at Dedham on a cold frosty morning, after which "they put her on Horseback and carried her a weary Journey, many Miles into the Wilderness and towards Night left her there where many Wolves and Bears and Wild Beasts which used sometimes to set upon living Persons, and many deep Waters to pass through, there to purchase a House and Ground which might hold her Tabernackle or lodge her therein."

Notwithstanding this severe treatment, Mrs. Hooton returned to Boston and again she was whipped out at the cart's tail through the towns of Roxbury, Dedham and Medfield, after which she was again sent into the wilderness, "where she had above Twenty Miles to go in the exceeding Cold."

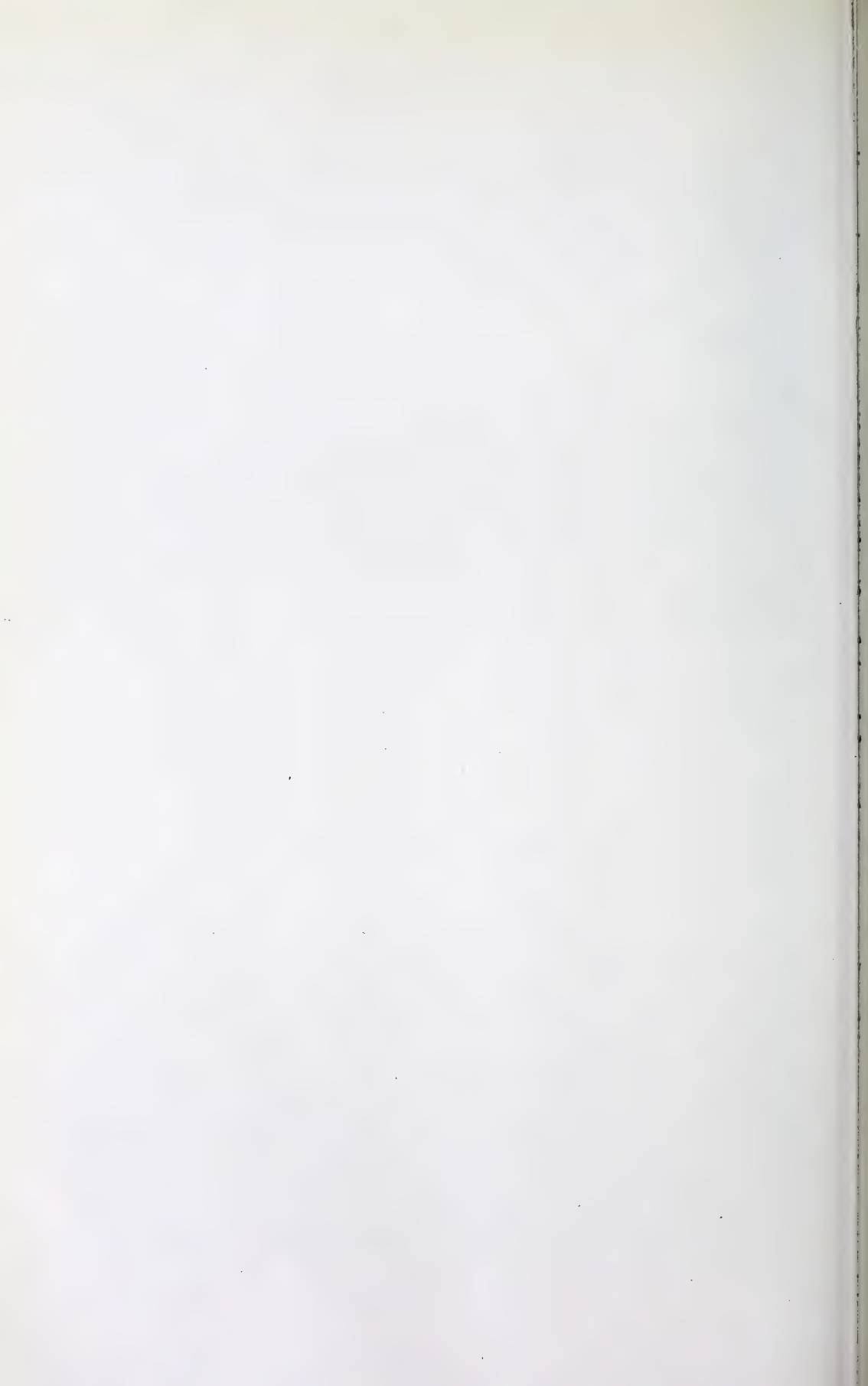
Other Quakers who were whipped, imprisoned or otherwise persecuted by the authorities were: Richard Dowdney, John Copeland, Christopher Holder, Joseph Nicholson, John Liddall, Jane Millard, Katharine Chatham, Ann Coleman and Thomas Newhouse. The last named seems to have been a preacher or missionary of some sort, as he tells his story himself. He says: "Another time in my travels I came to a Town called Medfield in New England, in Boston's Jurisdiction, and I could not get a Meeting: And it being the First Day of the Week, when the Priest had done and the People came forth into the Street where I was standing waiting upon the Lord, these words ran through me 'Oh, Earth, Earth, Earth, hear the Word of the Lord!' With some more words, but my Mouth was presently stopp'd with a Man's Hand and several sore Blows I received amongst them: And after that they carried me back again to the Stocks, but



RESIDENCE OF DAVENPORT BROWN, MEDFIELD  
Birthplace of Hannah Adams, 1755, pioneer authoress of America.



PEAKE HOUSE, MEDFIELD



they standing by the Worship House, they would not let me sit in them there, but took them upon their Shoulders and carried them under a Hedge and put me in them two Hours, where I had good Service for the Lord, and the next day I was whipp'd at Dedham at the Cart's-tail with Ten Stripes, and the Following day at Medfield with ten Stripes more, and sent away into the Woods."

#### A FEW LANDMARKS

In every community there are certain objects that have a historic value, in that they connect the present with the past. Generally speaking, the older the settlement the greater the number of these landmarks, each of which tells a story that it would be difficult to repeat in words. Below is given a description of a few of Norfolk County's landmarks of this character.

The Fairbanks House—A short distance east of the railroad station in Dedham stands an old house, which for its picturesqueness and antique furniture is an object of interest to visitors. The land upon which it stands was allotted to Jonathan Fairbanks in 1637, and there is a tradition that the house was built about that time. It was probably not built until twenty-five or thirty years after that date, but is doubtless the oldest house in Norfolk County today. The small wing on the side next to East Street was added about 1777. Other additions have been made from time to time, but the main portion of the structure remains just as it was built by Jonathan Fairbanks. The house contains many relics of the family who have lived there for eight generations. It has never been deeded. It was built by a Fairbanks and his descendants have always owned and occupied it.

The Peake House—The visitor who makes the trip from Dedham to Medfield on the electric line will notice on the right of the road, just before coming to the main village of Medfield, an old house much weather-beaten, with an unusually steep roof. It was built by one of the pioneers of Medfield and is thus described by Barber in his *Historical Collections of Massachusetts*: "This house was standing at the time when the principal part of the town was burnt by the Indians in 1676. It is probably the only house of the kind now standing in this country. It is an interesting relic of antiquity, showing the manner in which most of the houses of the first settlers were built. This house is 24 feet in length, 14½ feet in breadth, 10 feet from the ground to the eaves of the roof, about 12 feet from the eaves to the top of the roof. There are three divisions on the ground floor, consisting of one principal room, and entry and a pantry; on the second floor are two chambers, above which is a narrow garret. It was formerly used as a weaver's shop."

Adams Houses, at Quincy—Near the foot of Penn's Hill, in Quincy, are two houses, very much alike in appearance, the birthplaces of two presidents of the United States. The one on the right in the picture is the house in which John Adams was born on October 19, 1735, and the other is where John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767. From 1800 to 1804 the latter was occupied by Rev. Peter Whitney, pastor of the First Parish Church, while Mr. Adams was abroad as minister to Berlin or in Washington as United States senator. The two houses are well preserved, considering their great age, and are objects of interest to the student of history.

Avery Oak—Among the early settlers of Dedham was Dr. William Avery, who built his house on what is now East Street, near a large white oak tree, which has become known in the annals of the town and county as the "Avery Oak." It is this tree that is represented upon the town seal of Dedham. In an address before the Dedham Historical Society on October 3, 1897, Erastus Worthington said: "That the Avery oak is much older than the settlement of the town can hardly be doubted. There is in the possession of the writer, a sketch of the tree made probably about 1825 by our late townsman, Alvan Fisher. On it is written this memorandum in pencil. '19½ feet in circumference—102 years since the top was cut off for firewood by the grandfather of Deacon Avery.'"

Mann's Annals of Dedham (p. 125) says that seventy dollars were offered by the builders of the United States frigate Constitution, but the offer was rejected by the owner. By a deed of conveyance dated June 29, 1886, the oak was given by Joseph W. Clark to the Dedham Historical Society, on the condition that it should be carefully preserved in the years to follow. The Avery house was torn down the year before this deed was executed.

Indian Rock—A short distance south of the Village of Franklin, on the road to Wrentham, a giant rock rears its head above the surrounding tree-tops. It is known as "Indian Rock," now a historic spot in Franklin. At the base of this rock occurred the fight between Capt. Robert Ware's company and a party of Indians at the time of King Philip's war. An account of the action is given in the chapter on Indian History. Traditions of this battle are still cherished by old inhabitants of Franklin, and the rock is pointed out as one of the historic landmarks of the county.

Dedham Powder House—On March 1, 1762, "It was put to the Town to see if the Town will build a Powder House. Voted in the affirmative and then the Town voted to refer the further consideration of said Powder House to next May meeting." Such is the entry in the records of a town meeting on the date noted. At the May meeting it was voted "to have the Powder House built on a great Rock in Aaron Fuller's land Near Charles River." The work of building it was referred to a committee, but that committee failed to perform its assigned duty. In May, 1765, the matter was again taken up, and it was decided to erect a building "Eight Feet Square on the outside and Six Feet high under the Plates, the Materials to be Brick and Lime Mortar." The house was completed in the latter part of 1766 or early in 1767. At the time of the celebration of Dedham's 250th anniversary in 1886, the building was repaired and in the eastern wall was inserted a tablet of bronze bearing the inscription: "The Powder House, Built by the Town, 1766."

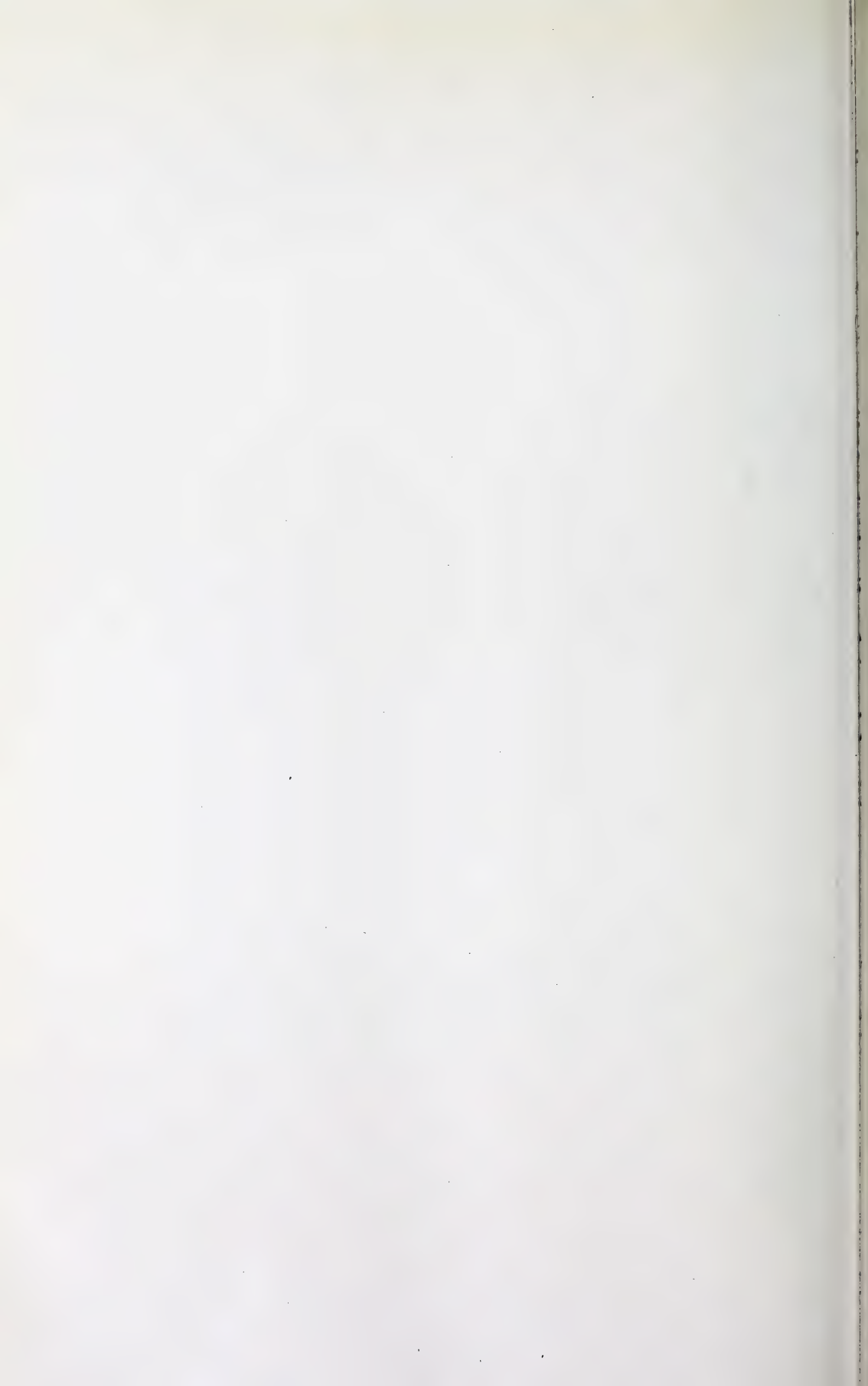
Other objects that might properly be classed as landmarks are: The Angle Tree Monument, on the southern border of Plainville; the Paul Revere House, in Canton; the Dorothy Quincy House and the old Adams Mansion, in Quincy; the Medway Elm, a large tree of that variety bearing an inscription relating to early days in the town; "House Rock," in East Weymouth, the largest boulder in New England; the old stone pound, in Westwood; and various old buildings, public and private, in several of the towns.

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

No attempt is intended to describe the visits of all the distinguished persons who have been in Norfolk County since its establishment in 1793, but there are a



THE AVERY OAK. THE OLDEST TREE IN DEDHAM



few who stand out in bold relief and deserve more than passing mention. First in order is General Lafayette, who passed the night of August 23, 1824, in the county. The following account of his visit is taken from Mann's *Annals of Dedham*:

"General Lafayette arrived here at half past ten o'clock in the evening, and stopped at Alden's Hotel. The loud and repeated cheerings from the assembled citizens, who had continued to collect through the day in expectation of his arrival, the salute of the artillery, the ringing of bells, and the brilliant illumination of the houses in the village, gave some faint evidence of the satisfaction experienced by all on the arrival among us of this distinguished Revolutionary Chief—this friend of America in her time of need, and of Liberty throughout the world. He tarried here but one hour, during which time hundreds of ladies and gentlemen had the gratification of shaking hands with the General; and had he tarried until morning, the time would have been too short to gratify all who aspired to that honor. General Lafayette is a remarkably tall, majestic looking man, about sixty-eight years of age, and was dressed in plain citizens' dress. He was accompanied by his son and one or two other French gentlemen of his household. At half past eleven he entered his carriage and was again greeted with the three times three cheers of the citizens, and escorted by a cavalcade of about one hundred horsemen to the seat of Governor Eustis in Roxbury, where he spent the night." (Roxbury was at that time a part of Norfolk County.)

The following day many of the people of Norfolk County went to Boston to witness the reception of Lafayette as the "Nation's Guest" in that city. From the residence of Governor Eustis he was escorted to the city line by some two thousand horsemen. There he was received by the mayor and other city officials and escorted through the streets by the military companies of Boston and the adjacent towns. At the state house he was formally received by the state authorities, after which a public dinner was served at the Exchange. Many men were then living who remembered Lafayette's former visit to America, when he periled his life and fortune to aid the colonists in their struggle for independence. He remained in this country until the following summer, and on June 17, 1825, assisted at the laying of the corner-stone of the Bunker Hill monument.

On Friday, June 21, 1833, President Andrew Jackson, accompanied by Vice President Martin Van Buren; Gen. Lewis Cass, secretary of war; Governor Woodbury, secretary of the navy; Governor Marcy, of New York, and other prominent gentlemen, passed through Norfolk County on their way from Providence to Boston. The party arrived at Dedham about noon and was received by a committee, of which James Richardson was chairman. Mr. Richardson welcomed the President with a brief address, and which was responded to by General Jackson. The further account of the President's visit is taken from the *Dedham Patriot* of June 27, 1833, which says:

"The President was then conducted on foot by the committee through the throng of spectators, who were ranged in two lines nearly the whole length of Court Street, bowing gracefully to the people on either side as he passed, to the open space in front of the meeting house, where the First Regiment commanded by Colonel Eaton was paraded. After receiving the salute of the military and reviewing them, he, together with his suite, were conducted to the Norfolk Hotel, where they dined. At one o'clock he took his seat in an open barouche, together

with the Vice President and the two aids of Governor Lincoln, and departed on his journey to Boston amid the cheers of the assembled multitude."

Abraham Lincoln, then a member of Congress from Illinois, came to Massachusetts in 1848 to make some speeches in the interest of Taylor and Fillmore, the whig candidates for President and Vice President. On the afternoon of Wednesday, September 20, 1848, he spoke in Temperance Hall (the old court-house) at Dedham, following the convention which renominated Horace Mann for Congress. He was escorted from Boston by a number of citizens of that city, among whom was George H. Monroe, a well known newspaper man of that day, who afterward wrote the following account of the speech:

"When the party arrived at the little hall, late in the afternoon, it was found to be but half full, and with an apparently stupid and morose speaker it was thought the jug was up. But the moment Mr. Lincoln began to speak there was a change. He was no longer indifferent, but started off with fine effect. Pretty soon he turned up the sleeves of his black alpaca sack coat, then he turned up the cuffs of his shirt, and by and by he loosened his necktie, and wound up by taking it off altogether, the enthusiasm of his rural listeners rising steadily as the transformation progressed. The speaker bubbled over with humor, told funny stories of western life to illustrate points in his argument, and talked to his auditors in the most familiar and off-hand way imaginable. Suddenly, after he had been talking half an hour, a locomotive bell on a train about to start for Boston was heard. Lincoln stopped and said he had to speak in Cambridge in the evening and must run for the train. Cries of 'No! No! Don't stop!' etc., came from all over the hall, and one man promised to hitch up his nag and take the speaker to Cambridge later, but Lincoln said 'I have kept my word with you and I must do the same by the Cambridge people; I can't afford to take any chances,' and he went, attended by every evidence of genuine regret on the part of the Dedhamites."

That was ten years before Mr. Lincoln's debates with Stephen A. Douglas brought him into national prominence, and twelve years before he was elected President. He was practically unknown in the East in 1848, and it may be interesting to the reader to know how he was regarded by the opposition. His meeting at Temperance Hall is thus described by the Norfolk Democrat: "From twelve to twenty of our citizens went to the depot to meet the delegations from Roxbury and Dorchester Taylor clubs and the Hon. Western member of Congress. A procession was formed of about 100 and marched through the streets accompanied by the Dorchester Band of musicians. When opposite the Phoenix House nineteen individuals mustered courage enough to tell the procession that they could hurrah three times. We believe the procession was not interrupted by cheers again till they arrived at the hall.

"Mr. Lincoln was received with a good deal of applause by about a fifth of the audience, who appeared to do all the applause. The speaker was limited as to time and did not recite all his speech. . . . We did not hear him through, but presume he gave great satisfaction to the Taylorites present. He was escorted to the depot by the Dedham Whig Club and a band of music, and after he had left 51 men and boys marched back again to the hall."

The Roxbury Gazette, another opposition paper, gives this account: "The Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois came out in the cars at half past three P. M. with fifty-one persons, who, we presume from the posters, were drummed up

for a demonstration. The procession, escorted by the Dedham Taylor Club, composed of from twelve to fifteen persons, was indeed a melancholy display. But it will appear brilliantly enough in the *Atlas*. (The Boston *Atlas* was a whig paper.) That is past hurt. We have no doubt that both conventions were satisfactory to the parties interested. We only regret that they cannot be repeated in every town in this county and district previous to the election."

To the credit of these newspapers, who thus "poked fun" at Mr. Lincoln in 1848, it can be said that thirteen years later, when the nation was in the throes of Civil war, they gave his administration loyal support in behalf of the Union.

#### BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS

Few counties in the country are better provided with benevolent and charitable institutions than Norfolk. There are three state institutions of this nature located within the limits of the county, viz: The Medfield Asylum for the Insane, which was opened for the reception of patients by the governor's proclamation on May 1, 1896, and the Insane Asylum at Foxboro. The state also has a hospital school at Canton.

Almost every town has its farm or home for the unfortunate poor. These institutions are maintained at the expense of the town, those of the inmates who are able to work being given employment about the farm or home. Thousands of dollars have been expended by the towns in the establishment and support of these homes for the poor.

In May, 1852, the "Sailors' Snug Harbor," a home for invalid or disabled seamen, was established in Quincy, and the National Sailors' Home was opened in the same town on March 14, 1865, for the benefit of sailors and marines who fought on the side of the Union in the Civil war.

About 1863 an institution known as the "Temporary Asylum for Discharged Female Prisoners" was established at Dedham, through the efforts of Miss Hannah B. Chickering. The object of the home is to care for women after their discharge from any reformatory institution, and for girls and women placed on probation by the courts. While in the institution they are taught sewing, laundry work, house work, etc., and every effort made to elevate their moral tone.

In the way of general hospitals, all the populous towns are well supplied. Brookline has six such institutions, to wit: The Board of Health Hospital, the Corey Hill, the Summit, the Infants', the Free Hospital for Women, and the House of the Good Samaritan. Simpson Hospital is conducted in connection with Wellesley College, and at Norwood the Civic Association Hospital is one of the best equipped in the eastern part of Massachusetts. The Quincy City Hospital was established some years ago and in the spring of 1917, after war with Germany was declared, steps were taken to equip 100 beds in this institution for use as an emergency military hospital. The Nurses' Association of Dedham has accumulated a fund of some twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of a general hospital in that town. The Milton Hospital and Convalescent Home offers the pure, wholesome atmosphere of the Blue Hill region to persons recovering from illness, accompanied by medical treatment at the hands of skilled physicians and surgeons, and the Glover Home and Hospital of Needham is conducted along modern lines.

## CHAPTER LIII

### STATISTICAL REVIEW

CENSUS REPORTS SINCE 1790—COMPARATIVE TABLE OF POPULATION BY TOWNS FOR  
1910 AND 1915—OFFICIAL ROSTER—LIST OF PRINCIPAL COUNTY OFFICERS FROM  
1793 TO 1917 — CLERKS — SHERIFFS — TREASURERS — REGISTERS OF DEEDS —  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Norfolk County was created by an act of the General Court on March 26, 1793, and was organized the following June. In June, 1917, the county was therefore 124 years old. The following table shows the growth in population from the time the county was organized to the last official census. The first United States census was taken in 1790, three years before Norfolk County was called into existence, but the population for that year has been easily ascertained by taking the figures for the Suffolk County towns that were afterward set off to form the County of Norfolk.

1790 .....	23,878
1800 .....	27,216
1810 .....	31,245
1820 .....	36,471
1830 .....	41,972
1840 .....	53,140
1850 .....	78,892
1860 .....	109,950
1870 .....	89,443
1880 .....	96,462
1890 .....	118,950
1900 .....	151,539
1910 .....	171,999
1915 (State census) .....	201,907

From this table it will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the number of inhabitants in each census period, except in the decade from 1860 to 1870. The decrease in that period was caused by the annexation to Boston of the Town of Roxbury on January 5, 1868, and the Town of Dorchester on January 3, 1870, the population of those towns having formerly been enumerated in Norfolk County, where they belonged. The increase between 1870 and 1880 was checked to some extent by the annexation of West Roxbury to Boston on January 5, 1874.

In the following table is given the population of the several towns of the

county according to the United States census for 1910 and the state census for 1915.

Towns	1910	1915
Avon .....	2,013	2,164
Bellingham .....	1,696	1,953
Braintree .....	8,066	9,343
Brookline .....	27,792	33,490
Canton .....	4,797	5,623
Cohasset .....	2,585	2,800
Dedham .....	9,284	11,043
Dover .....	798	999
Foxboro .....	3,863	3,755
Franklin .....	5,641	6,440
Holbrook .....	2,816	2,948
Medfield .....	3,466	3,648
Medway .....	2,696	2,846
Millis .....	1,399	1,442
Milton .....	7,924	8,600
Needham .....	5,026	6,542
Norfolk .....	960	1,268
Norwood .....	8,014	10,977
Plainville .....	1,385	1,408
Quincy .....	32,642	40,674
Randolph .....	4,301	4,734
Sharon .....	2,310	2,468
Stoughton .....	6,316	6,982
Walpole .....	4,892	5,490
Wellesley .....	5,413	6,439
Westwood .....	1,266	1,448
Weymouth .....	12,895	13,969
Wrentham .....	1,743	2,414
Total .....	171,999	201,907

In a number of the published tables of the census for 1910, the total population of the county is given as 187,506, but there was evidently an error in footing the column, as any one can verify by adding the figures above. Between the years 1910 and 1915 the Town of Foxboro is the only one in the county that shows a decrease, the population in 1910 being 108 more than in 1915. All the other towns in the county show an increase, and the loss in Foxboro is so slight that it may have been due to errors in taking the enumeration.

#### OFFICIAL ROSTER

Following is a list of the principal county officers from the time Norfolk County was established in 1793 to the beginning of the year 1917, with the year in which each was elected or entered upon the duties of his office: (Some of the early officers were appointed by the governor of the state.)

Clerks of Courts—Nathaniel Ames, 1793; John Lathrop, Jr., 1797; Horatio Townsend, 1799; John S. Williams, 1811; Horatio Townsend, 1812; Jairus Ware, 1826; Ezra W. Sampson, 1836; Erastus Worthington, 1866; Louis A. Cook, since January 1, 1897. Dr. Nathaniel Ames, the first clerk, was also an associate justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

Sheriffs—Ebenezer Thayer, 1793; Atherton Thayer, 1794; Benjamin C. Cutler, 1798; Elijah Crane, 1810; William Brewer, 1811; Elijah Crane, 1812; John Baker, 1834; Jerauld N. E. Mann, 1843; Thomas Adams, 1848; John W. Thomas, 1852; Thomas Adams, 1853; John W. Thomas, 1857; Rufus C. Wood, 1878; Augustus B. Endicott, 1885; Samuel H. Capen, since 1899.

Treasurers—Isaac Bullard, 1793; John Bullard (son of Isaac), 1808; George Ellis, 1852; Chauncey C. Churchill, 1855; Charles H. Smith, 1889; Henry D. Humphrey, 1907. Chauncey C. Churchill died in office on April 18, 1889, and Charles H. Smith, of Dover, was appointed to serve until the next election. Mr. Smith was elected at each succeeding election until succeeded by the present treasurer, Henry D. Humphrey in 1907.

Registers of Deeds—Eliphalet Pond, 1793; James Foord, 1813; Enos Foord, 1821; James Foord (2nd), 1861; John H. Burdakin, 1873; Edward L. Burdakin, 1916; Walter W. Chambers, 1917. Four registers of deeds died while in office. James Foord died on October 15, 1821. His successor, Enos Foord, held the office for nearly forty years, his death occurring on April 22, 1861. John H. Burdakin died in October, 1916, and his brother, Edward L. Burdakin, was appointed to the vacancy. He died on June 12, 1917, when the present incumbent, Walter W. Chambers, was appointed.

County Commissioners—By the act of February 26, 1828, the Court of General Sessions of the Peace was abolished and the governor was authorized to appoint four commissioners in each county to perform the functions formerly exercised by the Court of Sessions. On April 14, 1828, Gov. Levi Lincoln appointed as commissioners in Norfolk County Samuel P. Loud, William Ellis, Nathaniel Tucker and Louis Fisher.

These commissioners held office until after the passage of the act of April 8, 1835, which authorized the people to elect three county commissioners. Samuel P. Loud, Seth Mann and Joseph Hawes were elected in Norfolk County. The first meeting of this board was held on May 22, 1835. It seems that the people were somewhat lax in the performance of their duty in the matter of electing commissioners, as on March 17, 1841, an act of the Legislature went into effect authorizing the governor to fill vacancies, in case of failure to elect, from the candidates receiving the highest number of votes. No change was made in the board in Norfolk County from 1835 to 1844, when James C. Doane was elected to succeed Seth Mann. In 1847 Nathan Jones succeeded Joseph Hawes, and in 1853 Nathaniel F. Safford succeeded Samuel P. Loud.

By the act of November 11, 1854, the people were to elect one commissioner annually, to serve for three years. Under this law a change was made in the board each year, except in case of reëlections. Since that time the board of commissioners for each year is given in the following list, except in those years where no change was made. In such cases the number of years served by the same members of the board is indicated:

1854-55—James C. Doane, Nathaniel F. Safford and Bradford S. Farrington.

- 1856—Nathaniel F. Safford, Bradford S. Farrington and Seth Mann.  
1857-58—Seth Mann, Nathaniel F. Safford and Lucas Pond.  
1859-62—Nathaniel F. Safford, Lucas Pond and Charles Endicott.  
1863-64—Charles Endicott, Nathaniel F. Safford and Milton M. Fisher.  
1865-66—Milton M. Fisher, Nathaniel F. Safford and David H. Bates.  
1867-70—David H. Bates, Milton M. Fisher and Joseph M. Churchill.  
1871—David H. Bates, Milton M. Fisher and Galen Orr. Mr. Orr came on the board in April, when Joseph M. Churchill was appointed associate justice of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston.  
1872-73—Nathaniel F. Safford, David H. Bates and Galen Orr.  
1874-77—Galen Orr, Nathaniel F. Safford and James Humphrey.  
1878-79—James Humphrey, Galen Orr and George W. Wiggin.  
1880-82—George W. Wiggin, Jabez Talbot, Jr., and James Humphrey.  
1883-88—George W. Wiggin, John Q. A. Field and Jabez Talbot, Jr.  
1889—Melville P. Morrell, George W. Wiggin and Jabez Talbot, Jr.  
1890-92—George W. Wiggin, Melville P. Morrell and John Q. A. Lothrop.  
1893—Melville P. Morrell, John Q. A. Lothrop and Thomas Blanchard.  
1894-96—Melville P. Morrell, Thomas Blanchard and Watts H. Bowker.  
1897—Thomas Blanchard, Edwin D. Wadsworth and Melville P. Morrell.  
1898-1901—Thomas Blanchard, James Hewins and Edwin D. Wadsworth.  
1902-04—James Hewins, Thomas Blanchard and Marshall P. Wright.  
1905-06—Marshall P. Wright, James Hewins and Sumner H. Foster.  
1907—Sumner H. Foster, John F. Merrill and Evan F. Richardson.  
1908-12—John F. Merrill, Evan F. Richardson and Silas A. Stone.  
1913-17—John F. Merrill, Evan F. Richardson and Everett M. Bowker.

## CHAPTER LIV

### CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

The history of every country is made up of a series of events, each one of which is dependent upon and the sequence of those that preceded it. As a fitting conclusion to this History of Norfolk County the following summary of events leading up to the county's settlement and organization, as well as many events that have occurred since its establishment, has been compiled for the ready reference of the reader. At first glance it may appear that some of the events have only a remote or indirect connection with the county's history. And while this may be true, to some extent, each one is a link in the chain, the first link of which was forged when Christopher Columbus discovered America. Without any one of these links the chain might have been differently forged and this history would have been differently written.

#### THE SUMMARY

October 12, 1492. Columbus first sighted the land of the Western Hemisphere.

March 5, 1496. Henry VII of England granted a patent of discovery and trade to John Cabot and his sons. This patent afterward became the basis of English claims to territory in the New World.

June 24, 1497. John Cabot and his son Sebastian landed near the mouth of the St. Lawrence and explored the coast from there southward.

February 3, 1498. A new patent was issued to the Cabots.

May 15, 1602. Bartholomew Gosnold discovered Cape Cod. He and his men were doubtless the first white men to set foot on Massachusetts soil.

April 10, 1603. Martin Pring and Williame Browne left Bristol, England, with two ships for New England.

April, 1603. James I became King of England.

——, 1603. Henry IV, King of France, granted the land from the fortieth to the forty-sixth parallels of north latitude to De Monts, who attempted to establish a settlement at Mount Desert.

March 31, 1605. The Archangel, Capt. George Weymouth, left Dartmouth, England, for America and reached Cape Cod about the middle of May.

April 10, 1606. First patents issued to the London and Plymouth companies, giving authority to establish settlements in America.

May 31, 1607. The Plymouth Company sent two ships and about one hundred men to open a plantation in New England.

March, 1614. Capt. John Smith sailed from London and during the following summer explored the coast of Massachusetts.

———, 1619. It is believed by some writers that in this year Capt. Thomas Dermer visited the harbors of Boston and Plymouth.

July 3, 1620. Sir Thomas Coventry ordered to prepare a patent for the Plymouth Company. This patent passed the seals on November 3, 1620, and is known as the "Great Patent for New England."

July 22, 1620. The Speedwell left Delft, Holland, for Southampton, England.

September 6, 1620. The Mayflower sailed out of Plymouth Harbor, carrying 101 passengers, bound for America.

November 9, 1620. The Mayflower sighted the cliffs of Cape Cod. About this time Peregrine White was born on board the Mayflower—the first white child claiming New England as his birthplace.

December 21, 1620. The pilgrims landed at Plymouth. The same day Richard Butteridge died—the first death in New England.

December 30, 1620. The storehouse at Plymouth completed.

January 14, 1621. The storehouse at Plymouth destroyed by fire.

July, 1622. A grant of land made to Thomas Weston, who sent a company to found a colony. The company landed at Wessagusset (now Weymouth) and began the first settlement in what is now Norfolk County. It was short-lived.

December, 1622. Robert Gorges received a grant of land covering "ten miles of seacoast and extending thirty miles inland."

September, 1623. A company brought over by Robert Gorges settled at the place where the Weston Company had attempted to open a plantation the year before. This was the second permanent settlement in Massachusetts.

March 19, 1628. A patent was granted to the Massachusetts Company embracing the land between the Merrimac and Charles rivers.

August 28, 1629. The charter of the Massachusetts Company was transferred to America.

April 10, 1634. News received in Boston that the Massachusetts charter had been recalled and a governor-general appointed to administer the affairs of the colony.

September 2, 1635. The Gorges settlement at Wessagusset incorporated as a plantation under the name of Weymouth.

September 3, 1635. The General Court ordered a plantation to be settled two miles above the falls of the Charles River.

August, 1636. Beginning of the Pequot war.

September 8, 1636. The plantation on the Charles River incorporated as the Town of Dedham.

March, 1639. The first printing press in Massachusetts was brought to Cambridge by Stephen Daye.

March 28, 1639. The Town of Dedham ordered the construction of "Mother Brook"—the first canal in America.

May 13, 1640. The Town of Braintree was incorporated.

May 10, 1643. Massachusetts was divided into four counties—Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk. (The Norfolk County then established was not the present county bearing that name.)

———, 1643. John Winthrop brought over material and workmen for the establishment of an iron works.

June 15, 1648. Margaret Jones executed at Charlestown. This was the first trial and execution for witchcraft in Massachusetts.

May 22, 1650. The Town of Medfield was established.

October 4, 1656. The General Court imposed a penalty of £100 upon any ship captain bringing Quakers into Massachusetts.

May 7, 1662. The Town of Milton was incorporated.

———, 1667. The first sheep were brought to Dedham.

October 15, 1673. Town of Wrentham was incorporated.

June 24, 1675. Indians attack the Town of Swanzezy. This was the beginning of King Philip's war.

February 21, 1676. Medfield surprised and burned by the Indians.

July 25, 1676. Pumoham, sachem of Shaomet (now Warwick, Rhode Island), killed in the woods near Dedham.

August 12, 1676. King Philip killed in a swamp near Mount Hope and his son sold into slavery—end of King Philip's war.

April 14, 1680. William Nahaton and his brothers and sisters, Indians, deeded to the white men a tract of land by the Great Falls of the Charles River.

April 18, 1681. John and Sara Magus deeded a tract of land lying between Watertown and Natick to the white men.

April 18, 1685. Charles Josias (Wampetuck) a grandson of the old chief, Chickatabot, executed a deed confirming the grant of his grandfather.

———, 1693. The first postoffice in America was established at Boston.

April 24, 1704. First issue of the Boston News Letter—the first newspaper in the British colonies in America. It ran for seventy-two years. The New York Historical Society has the only complete file.

November 13, 1705. The Town of Brookline was incorporated.

November 5, 1711. The Town of Needham was incorporated.

October 24, 1713. The Town of Medway was incorporated.

November 27, 1719. The Town of Bellingham incorporated.

June 27, 1721. First vaccination in America by Dr. Zabdiel Boylston of Brookline upon his son and two negro servants.

December 10, 1724. The Town of Walpole set off from Dedham and incorporated.

December 22, 1726. The Town of Stoughton was incorporated.

September 13, 1728. The General Court passed the act incorporating the first paper mill in America. It was located in the Town of Milton.

March 18, 1762. A Dedham town meeting chose a committee to build a powder house "on a great rock in Aaron Fuller's field near the Charles River."

March 22, 1765. The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament.

March 18, 1766. The Stamp Act was repealed. The news reached Boston on the 16th of May.

July 22, 1766. The "Pillar of Liberty" erected at Dedham by the Sons of Liberty to celebrate the repeal of the Stamp Act.

April 26, 1770. The Town of Cohasset was incorporated.

December 16, 1773. The "Boston Tea Party"—340 chests of tea emptied into the harbor at Griffin's Wharf.

March 7, 1774. The Boston Port Bill was passed by the British Parliament.  
August 16, 1774. First meeting of the Suffolk Congress at Doty's Tavern, in what is now the Town of Canton.

September 6, 1774. Second meeting of the Congress at Richard Woodward's Tavern in Dedham.

September 9, 1774. The "Suffolk Resolves" were adopted at a meeting held at the house of Daniel Vose in Milton.

April 19, 1775. Battle of Lexington—beginning of the Revolutionary war.

June 15, 1775. George Washington appointed commander-in-chief of the colonial forces.

June 17, 1775. Battle of Bunker Hill, in which Norfolk County men were engaged.

November, 1775. Dedham was made the shire town of Suffolk County, because Boston was then occupied by British soldiers.

March 4, 1776. Dorchester Heights occupied and works thrown up during the night by American troops.

March 17, 1776. Boston evacuated by the British.

March 20, 1776. The American army enters Boston amid great rejoicing of the citizens.

July 4, 1776. Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

March 21, 1778. The Town of Franklin was incorporated.

June 10, 1778. The Town of Foxboro was incorporated.

June 15, 1780. State Constitution of Massachusetts adopted.

December 12, 1780. A convention met at Timothy Gay's Tavern in Dedham to discuss the advisability of dividing the County of Suffolk and establishing a new county.

February 25, 1783. The Town of Sharon was incorporated.

July 7, 1784. Dover was incorporated as a district.

February 6, 1788. Massachusetts ratified the Constitution of the United States by a convention in Boston, of which John Hancock was president.

February 22, 1792. The Town of Quincy was incorporated.

April 4, 1792. A regular stage route between Dedham and Boston established, making trips every two hours.

March 9, 1793. The Town of Randolph was incorporated.

March 26, 1793. Gov. John Hancock approved the act of the General Court dividing the County of Suffolk and erecting the County of Norfolk.

June 20, 1793. Norfolk County organized under the provisions of the act of March 26th.

September 24, 1793. First term of the Court of Common Pleas in Norfolk County was held in the Dedham meeting house. The Court of General Sessions of the Peace met the same day.

October 8, 1793. John Hancock died at Quincy.

———, 1793. A postoffice was established at Dedham, with Jeremiah Shuttleworth as postmaster.

April 26, 1796. First Norfolk County court-house completed.

———. The Columbia Minerva, the first newspaper in Norfolk County, started at Dedham.

February 23, 1797. The Town of Canton was incorporated.

———, 1802. Jason Fairbanks hanged at Connecticut Corner for the murder of Betsy Fales. This was the first legal execution in Norfolk County.

December 22, 1807. President Jefferson approved the Embargo Act, prohibiting American vessels from leaving port.

June 18, 1812. Congress declared war against Great Britain.

July 1, 1817. President James Monroe in Dedham.

January 13, 1820. A ludicrous duel fought in Dedham between a painter and a barber.

August 23, 1824. Marquis de La Fayette passed through Dedham on his way from Providence to Boston.

June 17, 1825. Corner-stone of Bunker Hill Monument laid by General La Fayette, "the nation's guest."

July 4, 1825. Corner-stone of Norfolk County's second court-house was laid.

July 4, 1826. John Adams died at his home in Quincy.

———, 1826. First railroad in the United States built from the granite quarries at Quincy to the Neponset River, a distance of three miles.

February 20, 1827. Norfolk County's new court-house dedicated, Chief Justice Parker delivering the address.

October 30, 1832. Bride's Tavern at Dedham and the stables of the Citizens Stage Company destroyed by fire.

———, 1833. President Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren paid Dedham a short visit.

March 4, 1845. The old town cannon at Dedham—the "great gun" of King Philip's war—burst into fragments while firing a salute.

February 23, 1848. John Quincy Adams died at Washington, D. C., aged eighty years.

———, 1849. First fair of the Norfolk Agricultural Society. Daniel Webster and other prominent men were present and made speeches.

May 22, 1852. Sailors' Snug Harbor, for sick and disabled seamen, located at Quincy, was incorporated.

May 16, 1855. Norfolk County Sunday School Association was organized.

September 13, 1860. Corner-stone for the additions to the Norfolk County court-house was laid.

November 6, 1860. Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States.

December 20, 1860. A state convention in South Carolina passed an ordinance of secession.

April 14, 1861. Maj. Robert Anderson evacuated Fort Sumter.

April 15, 1861. President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 men.

April 17, 1861. The Fourth Massachusetts left for the seat of war. In this regiment—the first to leave the state—were three companies from Norfolk County.

March 14, 1865. National Sailors' Home established at Quincy.

April 22, 1868. The Town of Hyde Park, then a part of Norfolk County, was incorporated.

September 29, 1868. Dedham Memorial Hall was dedicated.

February 23, 1870. The Town of Norfolk was incorporated.

August 18, 1871. Corner-stone of the first building of Wellesley College was laid.

February 23, 1872. The Town of Norwood was incorporated.

February 29, 1872. The Town of Holbrook was incorporated.

July 4, 1876. Celebrations in most of the Norfolk County towns to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of American Independence.

November 6, 1876. Winslow Park at Norwood dedicated.

February 18, 1879. Milton town hall was dedicated.

February 21, 1880. The Town of Avon was incorporated.

December 25, 1880. The Phoenix House at Dedham destroyed by fire.

April 6, 1881. The Town of Wellesley was incorporated.

February 24, 1885. The Town of Millis was incorporated.

May 17, 1888. Quincy was incorporated as a city.

April 28, 1891. Temperance Hall at Dedham—Norfolk County's first court-house—was destroyed by fire.

June 20, 1895. The present Norfolk County court-house was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies.

April 2, 1897. West Dedham incorporated as town under the name of Westwood.

November 27, 1898. A destructive wind along the shore at Cohasset wrecked a number of vessels and several lives were lost.

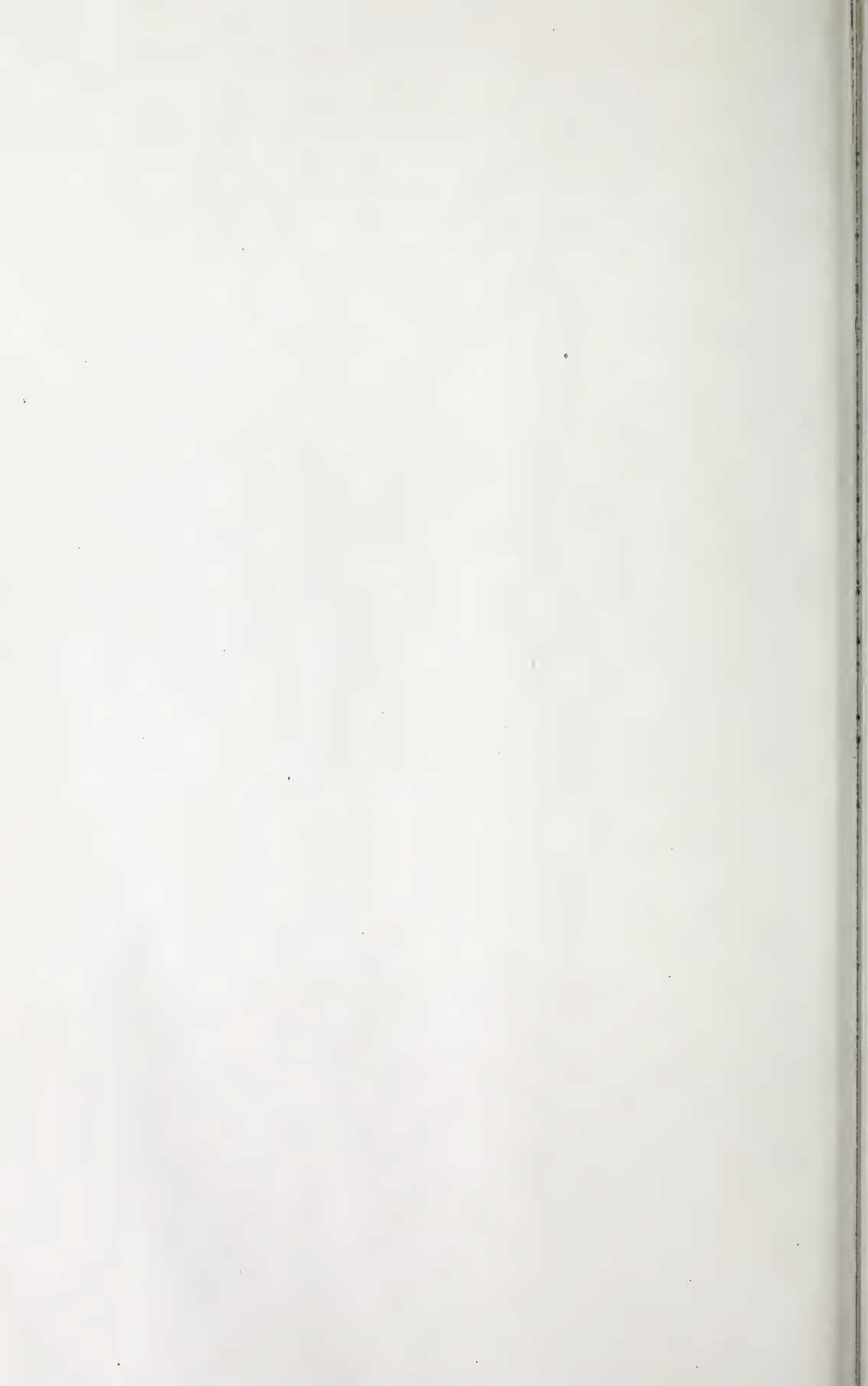
April 4, 1905. The southern part of Wrentham was set off as the Town of Plainville.

April 6, 1917. Congress declared war against Germany.

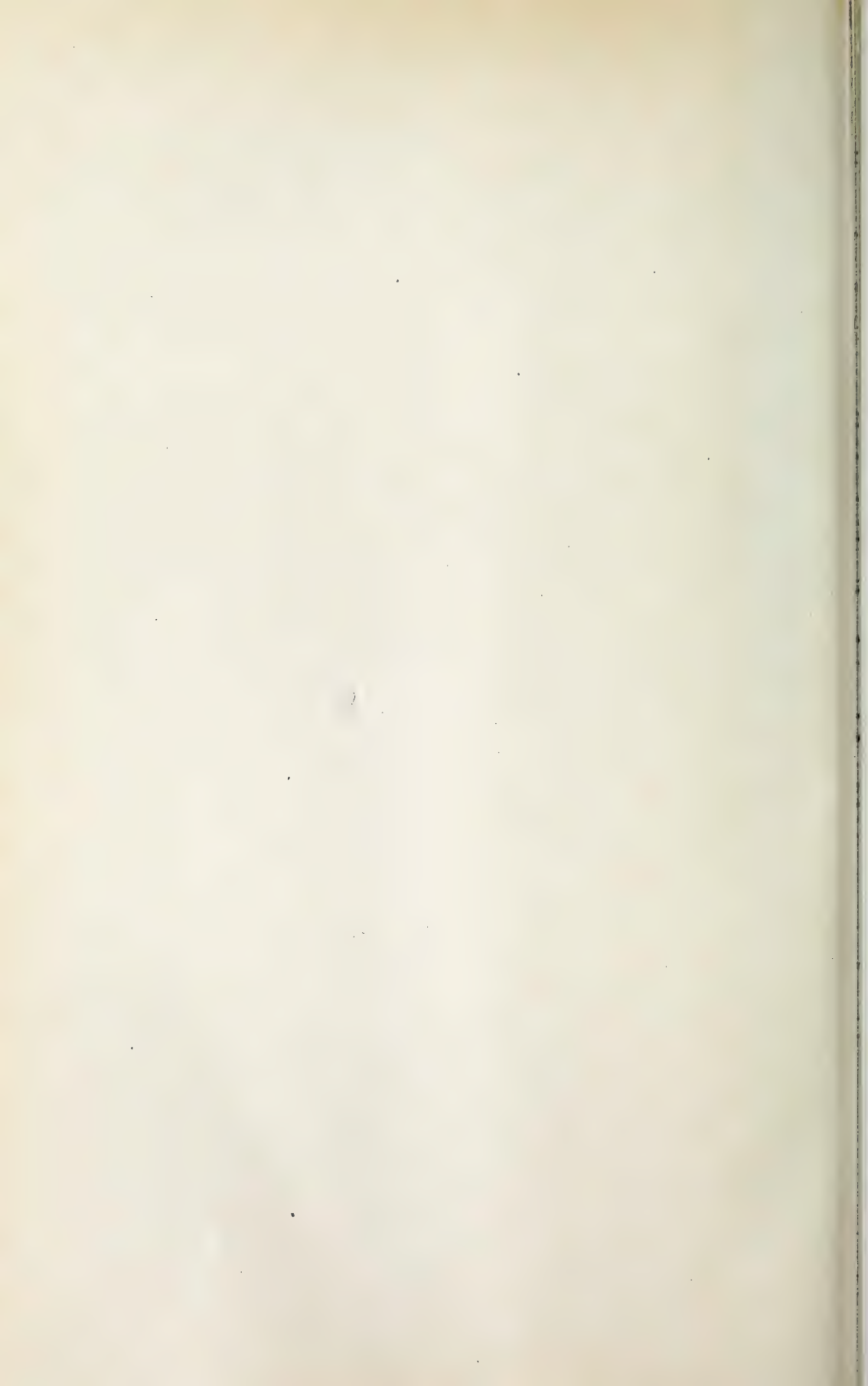
May 18, 1917. President Wilson approved the act of Congress authorizing a draft.

June 5, 1917. Registration of all able-bodied males between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years for the draft.

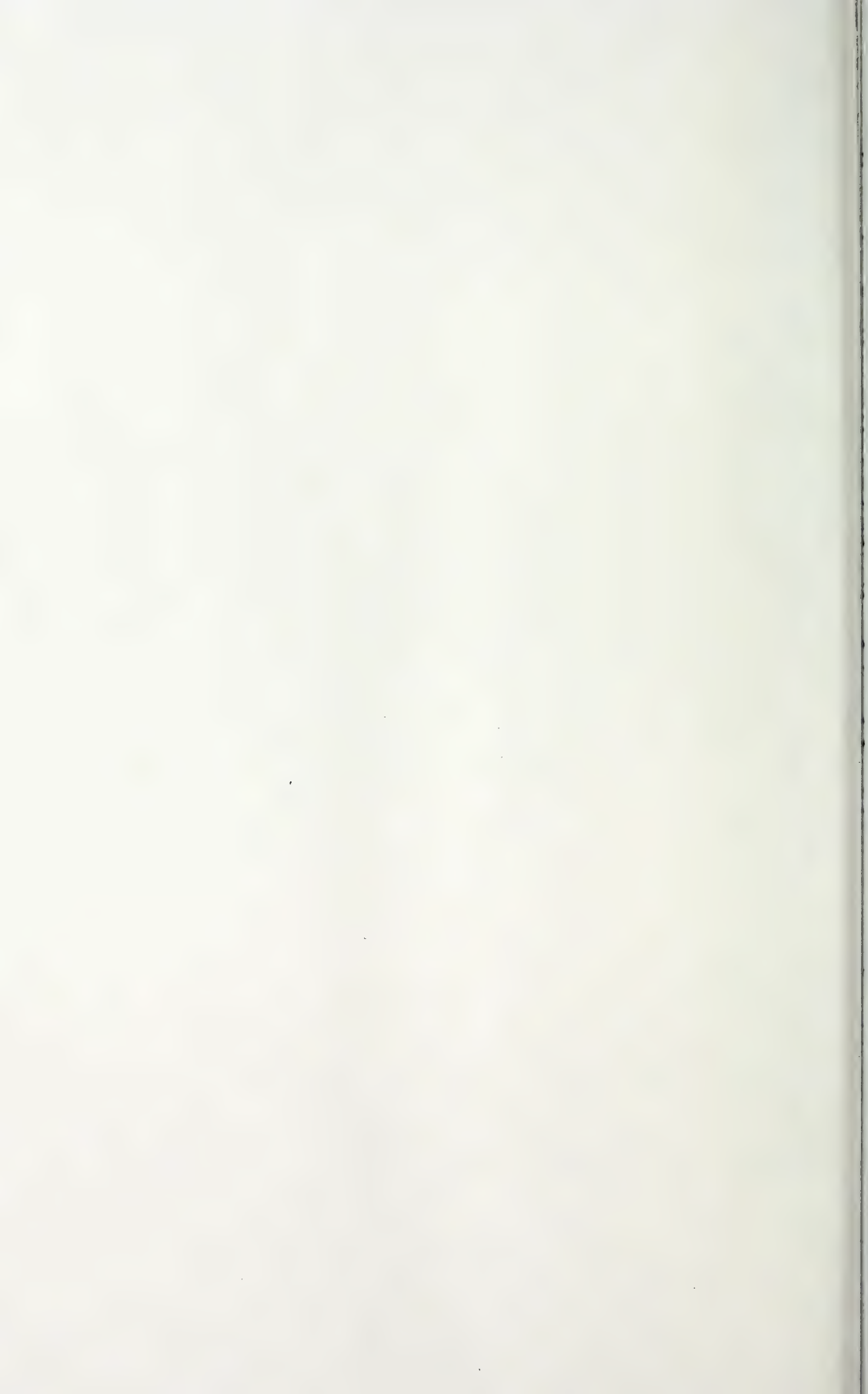
September 14, 1917. Weymouth almshouse burned and one of the inmates perished in the flames.



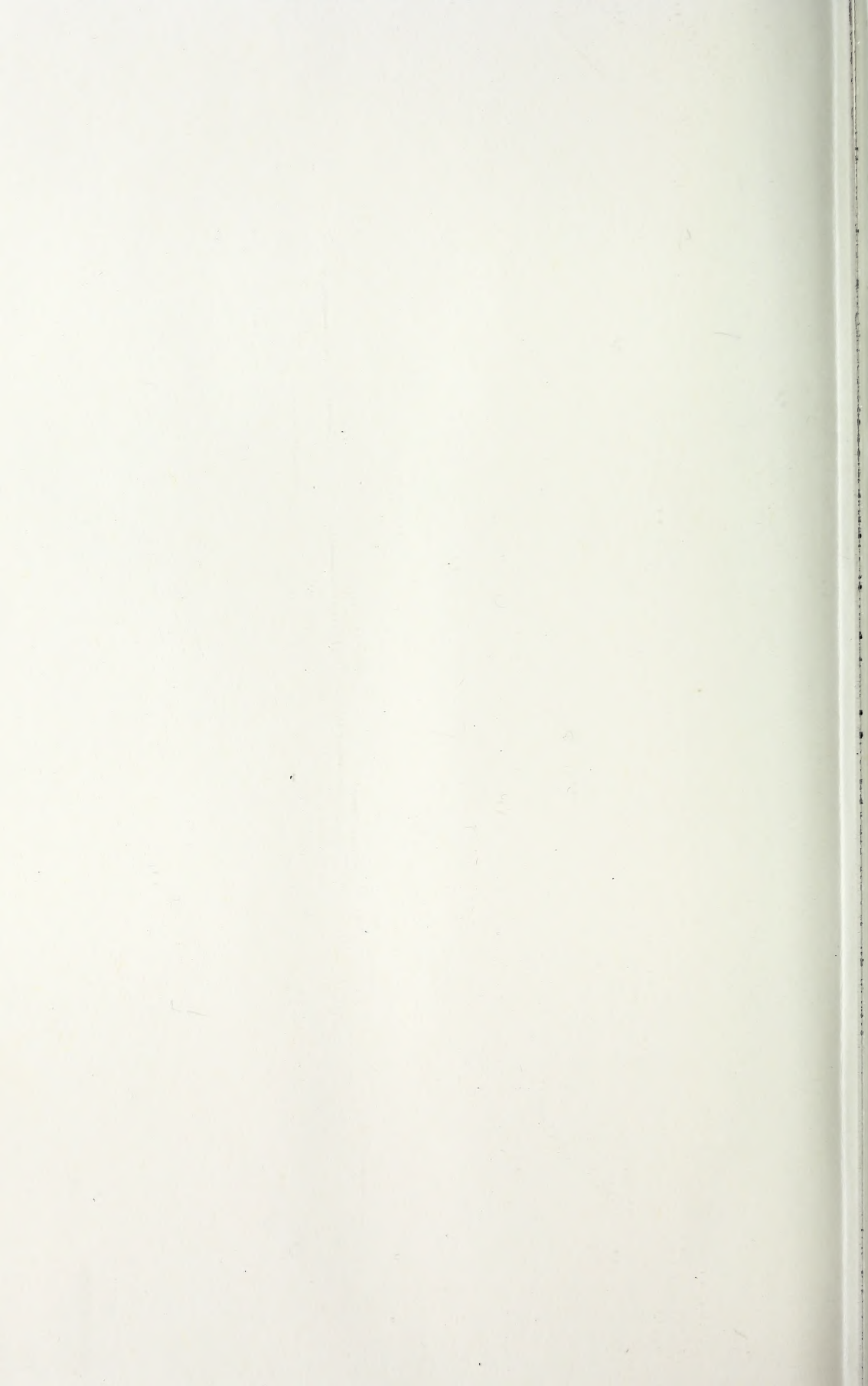












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